

The SPORTS PINK

55p

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**

WOTTE: "I CAN FIX SCOTTISH FOOTBALL"

Ex-Saints boss on his next mission - Pages 14-15



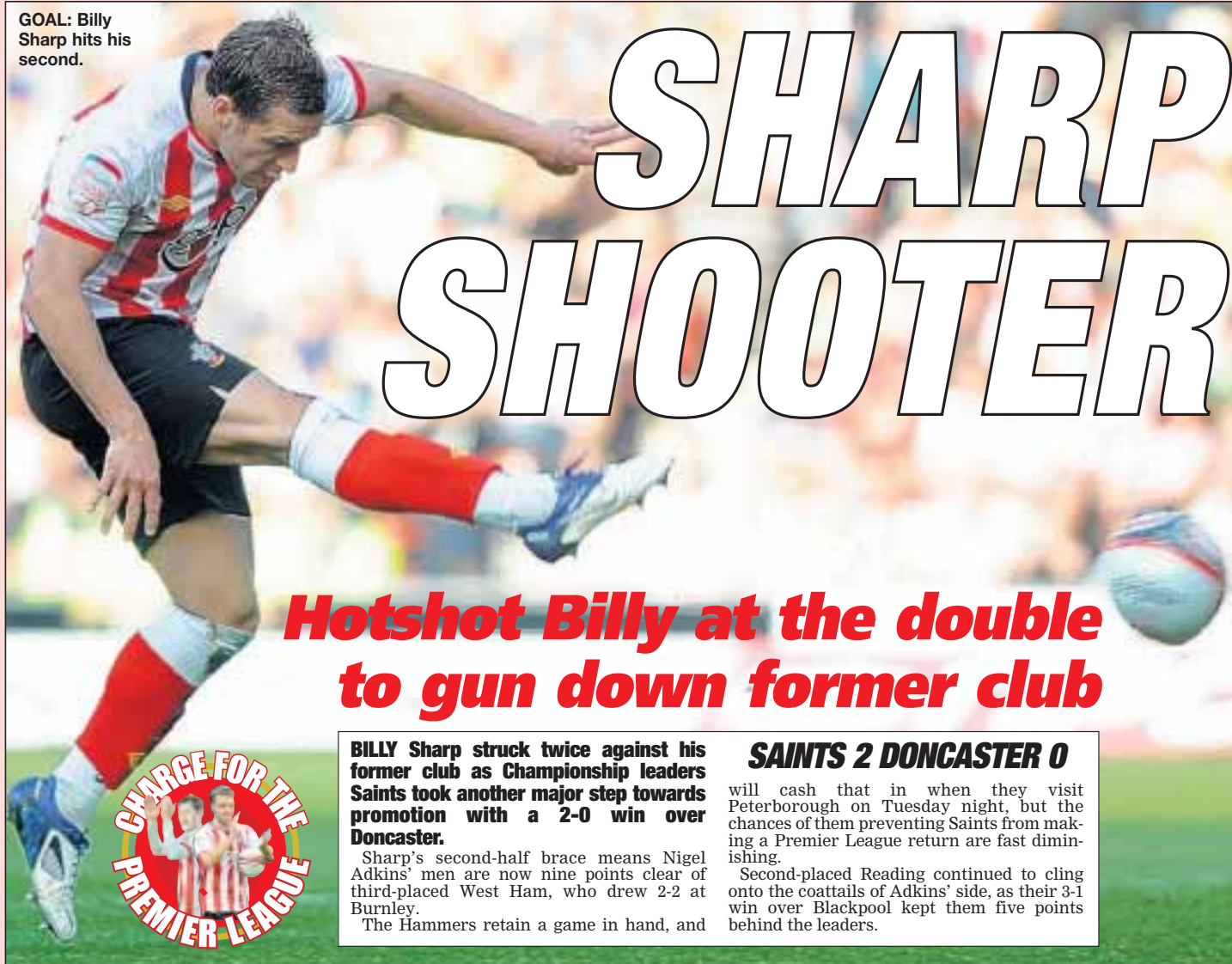
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GOAL KING

Six-page
Rickie
Lambert
special
- Pages 4-9



GOAL: Billy Sharp hits his second.



SHARP SHOOTER

Hotshot Billy at the double to gun down former club

BILLY Sharp struck twice against his former club as Championship leaders Saints took another major step towards promotion with a 2-0 win over Doncaster.

Sharp's second-half brace means Nigel Adkins' men are now nine points clear of third-placed West Ham, who drew 2-2 at Burnley.

The Hammers retain a game in hand, and

SAINTS 2 DONCASTER 0

will cash that in when they visit Peterborough on Tuesday night, but the chances of them preventing Saints from making a Premier League return are fast diminishing.

Second-placed Reading continued to cling onto the coattails of Adkins' side, as their 3-1 win over Blackpool kept them five points behind the leaders.

TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's
EXCLUSIVE column
See page 13

NON-LEAGUE



SEVEN pages of
non-league news
See pages 19-25

COLLEGES



Cup finals special
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Saints Spotlight

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SAINTS FANS DRESS UP TO IMPRESS - SEE PAGE 27

SAINTS 2 DONCASTER 0: Billy Sharp's pair

DOUBLE BILL VIEWING FOR

BILLY Sharp struck twice against his former club as Championship leaders Saints took another major step towards promotion with a 2-0 win over Doncaster.

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Second-placed Reading continued to cling onto the coat-tails of Adkins' side, as their 3-1 win over Blackpool kept them five points behind the leaders.

Sharp delivered the killer blows against relegation-threatened Rovers when he headed in Danny Fox's 58th minute corner, before pouncing on a Habib Beye error 15

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SPORTS REPORTER



minutes from time to finish the game off.

The only concern for the hosts was Rickie Lambert's departure early in the second half with an injury.

Saints started off at a high tempo, but were unable to create anything significant in the opening minutes.

In fact, the first chance of the afternoon actually fell to Doncaster, as the visitors settled nicely into the game.

Simon Gillett delivered a teasing cross from the right in the eighth minute, which on-loan West Ham striker Frederic Piquionne headed just wide.

Lambert tried his luck from distance moments later, but his effort was also off target.

Steve De Ridder tested Carl

Ikeme with a cross from the right, which the Rovers keeper fumbled at his near post before gathering it at the second attempt.

The visitors, whose odds were as long as 10/1 before kick-off for a win, went close to taking a shock lead in the 16th minute as ex-Pompey man Piquionne broke away and fed El-Hadji Diouf in a good position.

He looked set to fire Rovers in front, but was denied by Jack Cork's last-ditch block, which deflected the ball wide.

Saints had appeals for a penalty turned down midway through the half, as Lambert tangled with Beye in the box and went to ground, but referee Danny McDermid was unmoved. Jose Fonte showed

nice vision to pick out Sharp's run with a ball from deep, but the striker sent his header wide of the post.

Adkins was angered in the 36th minute when De Ridder breezed past Diouf before being floored by a forceful body check from Adam Lockwood, who was shown a yellow card for the foul.

Although Saints were controlling plenty of possession by this stage, they were also struggling to find a way through a stubborn Rovers backline, which was being ably protected by a stout five-man midfield.

Sharp headed a Fox free-kick wide, before De Ridder had a shot deflected past the post for a corner.

But there was nothing that constituted a clear sight of the visitors' goal, with the first-half fizzling out into a 0-0 scoreline at the break.

Despite the somewhat frustrating stalemate, neither manager opted to alter their line-up at the interval.

Doncaster poked and prodded away in the opening minutes, with Diouf testing the defence with a delivery from the left, which was headed away by Danny Fox.

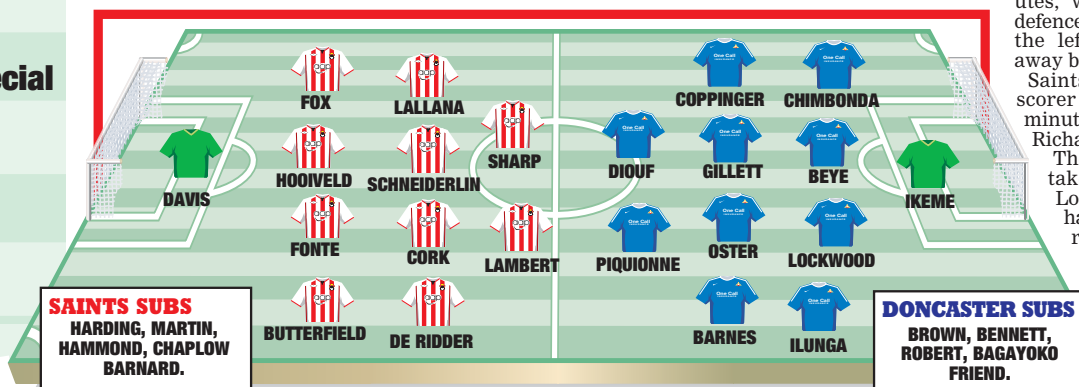
Saints then withdrew top scorer Lambert in the 49th minute, replacing him with Richard Chaplow.

The 28-goal forward had taken a knock from Lockwood late in the first half, but was unable to run it off and was handed an ice pack as he left the pitch.

The change led to a reshuffle for Saints, with Chaplow being deployed on the right and De Ridder being sent to join Sharp in attack.

Sharp had a sight of goal moments later, as the ball landed at his feet, but he hit his shot straight at Ikeme.

De Ridder won the ball off Chimbona in the 56th minute and went scampering down the left, before cutting inside



SAINTS made three changes to the side that won at Hull in midweek for the visit of Doncaster to St Mary's.

Right back Frazer Richardson, winger Jason Puncheon and forward player Guly do Prado all started in the 2-0 win at the KC Stadium, but

TEAM NEWS

dropped out of the matchday squad today. Replacing them were Danny Butterfield, Steve De Ridder and Billy Sharp, who was handed a start against his former club having moved

south in January.

Striker Lee Barnard also made a rare appearance on the substitutes' bench.

There was a familiar face in the visitors' lineup as well, with ex-Saints midfielder Simon Gillett being named in the Rovers team.

FOR THE BEST SAINTS v DONCASTER MATCH REACTION AND

Saints Spotlight

floors his former club

IS GOOD SAINTS



BATTLE: Jack Cork is kept at arm's length by Doncaster's El-Hadji Diouf, above.

TANGLE: Saints' Steve De Ridder is brought to a halt by Doncaster defender Herita Ilunga, left.



GET IN: Billy Sharp celebrates netting his first.

and winning a corner. But a few groans from the crowd started to appear, as the set-piece came to nothing. They turned to cheers in the 58th minute, though, as a Fox

corner finally led to a break in the deadlock. The left-back's in-swinging delivery was met by an unmarked Sharp just outside the six-yard box, and the former Doncaster man

headed Saints in front. Moments after the restart, Sharp and Chimbona had an off-the-ball confrontation, with the pair going head-to-head.

Despite the slightly unsavoury nature of the altercation, no action was taken by the officials.

Doncaster made their first change in the 66th minute, with striker Kyle Bennett coming on for midfielder James Coppinger.

Sharp could have added a second goal, but mistimed another free header from a great position.

He was handed a new strike partner a minute later, as Adkins took off De Ridder and handed Lee Barnard a rare appearance.

The forward player has been troubled by an ankle injury for most of the season and was brought on for only his fifth league appearance of the campaign.

Doncaster centre half Lockwood was lucky to escape a second yellow card in the 72nd minute, when he pulled back Barnard.

Diouf was not so fortunate seconds later, as he was cautioned for arguing with

McDermid as frustration began to really take hold for the visitors.

Their sense of despair deepened even further 15 minutes from the end, as Sharp bagged his second to put the result beyond doubt.

Beye made a mess of clearing a long ball from Saints, allowing Sharp to pounce on it, race through, and beat Ikeme one-on-one.

The ex-Rovers ace was subsequently booked for his celebrations.

With the three points looking secure, Adkins took off Adam Lallana and replaced him with Dean Hammond.

Doncaster manager Dean Saunders countered by substituting Giles Barnes for Chris Brown, although there was little he could do at this stage to change the flow of the game.

Sharp and Chimbona again started getting involved off the ball, with Adkins trying to calm his player down for fear of him picking up a red card.

With the belief having been beaten out of Doncaster, Saints began to stroke the ball around and kill the clock, seeing out the five minutes of added time without worry.

Adkins feels the force is with him

NIGEL Adkins hailed a great week for Saints, as the club's hopes of a Premier League return further improved.

A 2-0 win over Doncaster at St Mary's strengthened their grip at the top of the Championship, crucially moving them nine points clear of third-placed West Ham.

Saints have now won four straight and are unbeaten in 12 league matches.

With just seven games left in their season, it is increasingly hard to imagine that the club won't go up automatically.

But, unsurprisingly, Adkins, pictured,

refused to get too excited after watching Billy Sharp strike twice against his former side.

"There are seven games to go," he said. "We've just had a very good week.

"We've scored two good goals today and three good wins in the week.

"What we'll do is recover ourselves and get ready for the next one."

The Saints boss also revealed that Rickie Lambert was withdrawn with a pelvic injury early in the second half, but insisted the striker would be fit to face Blackpool away next Saturday.



ANALYSIS, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight

30-goal heroes

RICKIE Lambert is aiming to become only the sixth player to score 30 second tier goals in a season since Martin Chivers achieved the feat when Saints were first promoted to the top flight in 1966.

Chivers struck 30 goals as Ted Bates' men finished runners-up in the old Second Division in 1965/66.

Since then, only five other strikers have reached the 30-goal barrier in a single season.

Among them was Pompey legend Guy Whittingham, who belted a remarkable 42 league goals in 1992/93.

Others were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1984/85 | |
| John Aldridge (Oxford) | 30 |
| 1989/90 | |
| Mick Quinn (Newcastle) | 32 |
| 1990/91 | |
| Teddy Sheringham (Millwall) | 33 |
| 1998/99 | |
| Lee Hughes (WBA) | 31 |

LEADING SECOND DIVISION GOALSCORERS (LEAGUE GOALS ONLY) SINCE THE WAR

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| 1946/47 | Charlie Wayman (Newcastle Utd) | 30 |
| 1947/48 | Eddie Quigley (Sheffield Wed) | 23 |
| 1948/49 | Charlie Wayman (Southampton) | 32 |
| 1949/50 | Tommy Briggs (Grimsby Tow) | 35 |
| 1950/51 | Jimmy McCormack (Burnley) | 33 |
| 1951/52 | Derek Dooley (Sheffield Wed) | 46 |
| 1952/53 | Arthur Rowley (Leicester C) | 39 |
| 1953/54 | John Charles (Leeds) | 42 |
| 1954/55 | Tommy Briggs (Blackburn R) | 33 |
| 1955/56 | Willie Gardiner (Leicester C) | 34 |
| 1956/57 | Arthur Rowley (Leicester C) | 44 |
| 1957/58 | Tommy Johnston (Leyton Orient/Blackburn R) | 43 |
| 1958/59 | Brian Clough (Middlesbrough) | 42 |
| 1959/60 | Brian Clough (Middlesbrough) | 39 |
| 1960/61 | Ray Crawford (Ipswich Town) | 39 |
| 1961/62 | Roger Hunt (Liverpool) | 41 |
| | Derek Kevan (West Brom) | 33 |
| 1962/63 | Robert Tambling (Chelsea) | 35 |
| 1963/64 | Ron Saunders (Portsmouth) | 33 |
| 1964/65 | George O'Brien (Southampton) | 34 |
| | Jimmy Greaves (Tottenham H) | 29 |
| 1965/66 | Martin Chivers (Southampton) | 30 |
| 1966/67 | Robert Gould (Coventry City) | 24 |
| 1967/68 | John Hickton (Middlesbrough) | 24 |
| | Ron Davies (Saints) | 28 |

continued on facing page

Now we all know

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

FORMER England star Trevor Brooking goofed four years ago when he referred to Bristol Rovers' leading scorer as Rickie Herbert during the FA Cup quarter final draw performed live on national television.

Of course, no such footballer existed. He was talking about Rickie Lambert.

Now there can't be a single football fan in the country who doesn't know the identity of one of the most incredible goalscorers in the last 40 years of the Football League.

Brooking, for one, will surely know.

After all, Lambert's goals this season could well deny his beloved West Ham the Premiership place they must have believed was theirs for the taking.

Last weekend Lambert celebrated his 150th league and cup appearance for Saints at



Millwall by scoring his fourth Championship hat-trick of the season.

No Saints striker had ever achieved that feat before.

Lambert now has 85 goals in 151 Saints games, and has rocketed into the top ten in the list of top all-time club post-war goalscorers.

Phenomenal, really, given that he hasn't even been a Saints player for three years yet.

In the process of completing his latest treble at Millwall, Lambert reached the 200 goals milestone in domestic English league and cup football.

Considering he only celebrated his 30th birthday last month, who would bet against him going on to pass the 300-goal mark?

That is a record only a handful of players in recent history have managed – the likes of ex-Saint Alan Shearer (pictured above), Teddy Sheringham and Steve Bull.

And all those three played for England!

The current top scorer in English domestic football is another former Saints striker, Kevin Phillips.

Now at Blackpool, he had 273 domestic goals – but is eight years older than Lambert.

The Saints talisman has a proud injury and suspension record, and if he carries on play-



SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

Saints Spotlight

Now who Rickie is...

ing for another six or seven years then the 300-goal mark could well come within his

sights. It is amazing to think that Lambert only cost Saints £1m on August 10, 2009. Generally, third division clubs don't pay seven-figure fees for new players.

Usually because they can't afford it, and if anyone is rated in the £1m bracket you would expect them to sign for a Championship club as a minimum.

But for whatever reason, no club in the top two divisions would pay Bristol Rovers' asking price for Lambert.

Huddersfield were keen to sign him during the January 2009 transfer window, but were rumoured to be put off by the £1m fee for a player who would be 30 in just over three years' time.

Oh, the benefit of hindsight is a wonderful thing!

Bolton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion had been linked with Lambert, but nothing came of the speculation.

As a result, he joined Saints, who at the time were in the same division as the Gas.

Though Rovers had been nearer the play offs than the relegation zone the previous season, and despite Saints starting the 2009/10 season 10 points adrift of their fellow League 1 clubs, Lambert knew swapping the Memorial Stadium for St Mary's was the proverbial no-brainer.

Forget the increase in wages, though Lambert's salary – already the best in Rovers' history apparently – was more than doubled overnight.

He wanted to play Championship football, and he knew Saints provided a quicker route to it than Rovers.

Lambert has been proved right, as everyone who lived in the real world knew he would.

His goal record this season might have surprised some, but Lambert was always confident in his ability to play in the second tier.

"My ambition is to play in the Championship," he said back in May 2009 after hitting 29 League 1 goals for Bristol Rovers.

"It needs someone to take a



ON THE SPOT: Lambert's prowess from dead balls has earned him comparisons with another Saints legend, Matt Le Tissier.



FORESIGHT: Former Saints boss Alan Pardew, left, brought Lambert, right, to St Mary's.

gamble on me, but I believe I can do it and I believe I can score goals there."

Alan Pardew was that gambler, and Saints hit the jackpot as a result.

As for Lambert, he has backed up his words with goals.

Eighty five of them.

There might have been some Saints fans doubtful as to whether a player who had never appeared outside the bottom two divisions could be worth £1m.

Such question marks weren't hanging over Lambert for long, though.

A day after signing, he made his debut in a Carling Cup tie at St Mary's against Northampton.

Within half an hour, he had gone a little way towards paying off his transfer fee with the first goal in an eventual 2-0 victory for Alan Pardew's side.

Lest we forget, these were still rebuilding days at Saints.

From the side that defeated the Cobblers that night, only Kelvin Davis, Adam Lallana and Morgan Schneiderlin remain regulars alongside Lambert.

Others, like Matt Paterson, Jake Thomson, Ollie Lancashire and Lloyd James, have been left behind by Saints' remarkable phoenix-like rise from the ashes of administration.

Thomson is now in non league football, James is on loan from Colchester at League 2 club Crawley, Lancashire is attempting to avoid a third relegation in four seasons at Walsall – in the other season he only avoided going down on the last day! – while Paterson can't even get in the Southend team these days.

The youngster who partnered Lambert up front in the latter's

debut game has spent time this season on loan to Hamilton Academicals and Forest Green Rovers.

(His time at Forest Green was short, and miserable – Paterson was sent off within 12 minutes of coming on as a sub on his debut. He never played for the Conference club again before returning to Roots Hall.)

A few days after the Northampton win, Lambert scored on his Saints league debut – in a 3-1 loss at the club who might have signed him, Huddersfield.

There could already have been few doubters left after less than a week as a Saints player.

Worth seven figures?

Rickie Lambert is, given the impact he has had at St Mary's, simply the best £1m player in Saints' entire history.

From facing page

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| 1968/69 | John Toshack (Cardiff City) | 22 |
| 1969/70 | John Hickton (Middlesbrough) | 24 |
| 1970/71 | John Hickton (Middlesbrough) | 25 |
| 1971/72 | Bob Latchford (Birmingham C) | 23 |
| 1972/73 | Daniel Givens (QPR) | 23 |
| 1973/74 | Duncan McKenzie (Nottingham Forest) | 26 |
| 1974/75 | Brian Little (Aston Villa) | 20 |
| 1975/76 | Derek Hales (Charlton) | 28 |
| 1976/77 | Mickey Walsh (Blackpool) | 26 |
| | Andy Gray (Aston Villa) | 25 |
| 1977/78 | Bob Hatton (Blackpool) | 22 |
| 1978/79 | Bryan Robson (West Ham UTD) | 24 |
| 1979/80 | Clive Allen (QPR) | 28 |
| 1980/81 | David Cross (West Ham) | 22 |
| | Steve Archibald (Spurs) | 20 |
| 1981/82 | Ronnie Moore (Rotherham) | 22 |
| 1982/83 | Gary Lineker (Leicester) | 26 |
| 1983/84 | Kerry Dixon (Chelsea) | 28 |
| 1984/85 | John Aldridge (Oxford) | 30 |
| 1985/86 | Kevin Drinkell (Norwich) | 22 |
| 1986/87 | Mick Quinn (Portsmouth) | 22 |
| 1987/88 | David Currie (Barnsley) | 28 |
| 1988/89 | Keith Edwards (Hull) | 26 |
| 1989/90 | Mickey Quinn (Newcastle) | 32 |
| 1990/91 | Teddy Sheringham (Millwall) | 38 |
| 1991/92 | Duncan Shearer (Swindon Town/ Blackburn R) | 23 |
| | David Speedie (Blackburn R) | 23 |
| 1992/93 | Guy Whittingham (Portsmouth) | 42 |
| 1993/94 | John McGinlay (Bolton Wand) | 25 |
| 1994/95 | John Aldridge (Tranmere Rov) | 24 |
| 1995/96 | John Aldridge (Tranmere Rov) | 27 |
| 1996/97 | John McGinlay (Bolton Wand) | 24 |
| 1997/98 | P.van Hooijdonk (Nottingham Forest) | 29 |
| | Kevin Phillips (Sunderland) | 29 |
| 1998/99 | Lee Hughes (West Brom) | 31 |
| 2000/01 | Andy Hunt (Charlton) | 24 |
| 2001/02 | Louis Saha (Fulham) | 27 |
| 2002/03 | Shaun Goater (Manchester C) | 28 |
| 2003/04 | Svetoslav Todorov (Portsmouth) | 26 |
| 2004/04 | Andy Johnson (Cr Palace) | 27 |
| 2004/05 | Nathan Ellington (Wigan) | 24 |
| 2005/06 | Marlon King (Watford) | 21 |
| 2006/07 | Jamie Cureton (Colchester U) | 23 |
| 2007/08 | Sylvan Ebanks Blake (Wolverhampton) | 23 |
| 2008/09 | Sylvan Ebanks Blake (Wolverhampton) | 25 |
| 2010/11 | Peter Whittingham (Cardiff City) | 20 |
| | Nicky Maynard (Bristol City) | 20 |
| 2011/12 | Danny Graham (Watford) | 24 |

SEE PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S RESULTS AND THE LATEST TABLES

Someone who puts Rickie to shame...

IF you think Rickie Lambert's recent goals record is simply amazing, then consider the facts and figures which surround the genius which is Lionel Messi.

Lambert struck his fourth hat-trick of the English second tier season at Millwall last weekend.

As a result, he took his goals tally for 2011/12 to 28 in games.

On Tuesday, Messi struck three goals as Barcelona beat Granada 5-3 in the Spanish Primera Liga.

That was, unbelievably, his EIGHTH hat-trick of the season.

And it took his Barca goals tally for the term to a mind-boggling 54 in just 41 appearances.

In 27 league outings, he has belted 34 goals.

He has already equalled his club haul in 2010/11, which were scored in 51 games.

There were 'only' four hat-tricks last term.

Over 100 goals in less than two seasons for a club playing in the top flight of a major European league and also competing against the best the continent has to offer in the Champions League!

Messi's midweek haul took his Barca goal tally to 234, a new record for the Catalan giants.

And he is only 24 years old.

Barcelona defender Gerard Pique has described Messi, pictured above, as "the best player in the history of the sport" after the Argentinian's Nou Camp treble on Tuesday.

Messi equalled the mark of 232 official goals set by Cesar Rodriguez during the 1940s and 50s when he slotted home Isaac Cuenca's cross in the 17th minute, and then secured the record outright in the 68th minute when he lobbed the ball over goal-keeper Julio Cesar.

The 24-year-old completed his hat-trick - his third in his last seven matches, including a five-goal Champions League haul against Leverkusen (the first ever five-goal haul in the CL) and four against Valencia in a league game - in the 86th minute.

The three-time FIFA World Player of the Year has no equal in football, according to Pique. "It's a pleasure to be in the same generation as him, I believe he's the best player in the history of the sport."

"I've been lucky enough to be on the same team as him, I consider myself privileged."

"It doesn't matter where he plays, if it's cold or hot, he always proves that he's the best."

Barca goalkeeper Victor Valdes echoed Pique's sentiments, saying: "Messi will mark an era. He'll be the best ever."

Isaac Cuenca added: "Messi is amazing, he's the best in the world and he proves it on a daily basis. For me, he's the best ever."

"It will take years to see someone else do something similar to what Messi does."

Messi has now scored 17 goals in his last 11 league and cup matches, and in the Champions League alone this season has 12 goals from just seven outings.



Saints Spotlight

RICK IS ALREADY

FLASHBACK: Rickie Lambert celebrates a goal on his way to his first Saints hat-trick at MK Dons in March 2010.



Saints' hat-trick heroes



GEORGE O'BRIEN

GEORGE O'BRIEN (10)

1960/61
(4) v Brighton
v Ipswich (FA Cup)
61/62
v Luton Town
62/63
v Cardiff City
v York City (FA Cup)
63/64
v Rotherham United
64/65
v Rotherham United
v Plymouth Argyle
(4) v Charlton Athletic
65/66
(4) v Bury

DEREK REEVES (9)

57/58
v Queens Park Rangers
v Shrewsbury Town
v Watford
58/59
(4) v Mansfield Town
59/60

v Southend United
v Mansfield Town
(4) v Swindon Town
(4) v Man City (FA Cup)
60/61
(4) v Leeds (League Cup)

MATT LE TISSIER (9)

86/87
v Leicester City
89/90
v Norwich City
v Wimbledon
1991/92
v Chelsea (Zenith Data)
92/93
v Oldham Athletic
93/94
v Liverpool
v Norwich City
94/95
(4) v Huddersfield (League Cup)
95/96
v Nottingham Forest

RON DAVIES (6)

66/67
v Leicester City
v Burnley
(4) v Aston Villa
v Plymouth (League Cup)
67/68
v Chelsea
69/70
(4) v Manchester United

MIKE CHANNON (6)

74/75
v Oxford United
v Bristol Rovers
v Derby (League Cup)
75/76
v Portsmouth
v Blackpool
v WBA (FA Cup)

MARTIN CHIVERS (5)

63/64 v Swindon Town
64/65 v Rotherham
65/66 (4) v Wolves
v Cardiff City
v Rochdale (League Cup)

FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS VISIT: www.dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

UP WITH THE BEST

Lambert's place in the history books is assured... and there's still more to come...



TERRY PAINE



George O'Brien 1964



DEREK REEVES



ERIC DAY

AMAZINGLY, Rickie Lambert is already one of the top 11 post-war Saints strikers in terms of goals scored.

The talismanic 30-year-old took his tally to 85 in just 150 outings with his fourth hat-trick of the Championship season at Millwall last weekend.

Even prior to that, though, Lambert was 11th in the all-time post-war club marks-men list.

Next in his sights is Steve Moran, who left The Dell in 1986 just one short of becoming the ninth striker to net 100 or more post-war goals for Saints.

Well out in front are Mick Channon, above right, and Matt Le Tissier, below right, with 228 and 209 goals respectively.

Terry Paine is third with 187 goals followed by George O'Brien (180), Derek Reeves (173), Eric Day (158), Ron Davies (153), Martin Chivers (106) and Tommy Mulgrew (100).

Lambert will therefore be joining a fairly exclusive list as and when he reaches three figures for Saints.

Of the 20 men who have scored more

than 50 league and cup goals for the club, Lambert has the fourth best goals per game record.

Charlie Wayman boasts the best, as our statistics on the right hand side of this page testify.

With 77 goals in just 107 outings, his goal per game ratio is a marvellous 0.71.

After that comes Davies (0.66 games per goal) and O'Brien (0.64 games per goal).

Lambert is next with 0.56 games per Saints goal.

Of the top four, Davies stands out as he is the only one of the quartet to have scored all his Saints goals while the club were in the top flight.

As our stats on the left hand page show, meanwhile,

Lambert is also fast rising up the list of post-war Saints hat-tricks.

His triple at Millwall was the fifth of his still relatively short Saints career.

Only O'Brien, Derek Reeves, Le Tissier, Davies and

Channon have scored more, while ex-

England striker Martin Chivers

also netted five hat-tricks.

O'Brien is leading the

way with 10 hauls of three or more goals.



RON DAVIES



TOMMY MULGREW



MARTIN CHIVERS



STEVE MORAN

Did You Know?

LEADING POST-WAR SAINTS GOALSCORERS (LEAGUE AND CUP GOALS INCLUDED)

| | Gm | Gl | GPg |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|
| Mick Channon | 605 | 228 | 0.37 |
| Matt Le Tissier | 540 | 209 | 0.38 |
| Terry Paine | 815 | 187 | 0.22 |
| George O'Brien | 281 | 180 | 0.64 |
| Derek Reeves | 311 | 173 | 0.55 |
| Eric Day | 422 | 158 | 0.37 |
| Ron Davies | 231 | 153 | 0.66 |
| Martin Chivers | 190 | 106 | 0.55 |
| Tommy Mulgrew | 330 | 100 | 0.30 |
| Steve Moran | 229 | 99 | 0.43 |
| Rickie Lambert | 150 | 85 | 0.56 |
| Danny Wallace | 317 | 79 | 0.24 |
| Charlie Wayman | 107 | 77 | 0.71 |
| James Beattie | 233 | 76 | 0.32 |
| David Armstrong | 272 | 71 | 0.26 |
| John Hoskins | 238 | 67 | 0.28 |
| Nick Holmes | 543 | 64 | 0.11 |
| Phil Boyer | 162 | 61 | 0.37 |
| Rod Wallace | 151 | 56 | 0.37 |
| Bobby Stokes | 264 | 55 | 0.20 |
| John Walker | 186 | 52 | 0.27 |

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Saints Spotlight



Grim for Pompey

SECOND-HALF strikes from Gary McSheffrey and Oliver Norwood helped Coventry boost their survival hopes with a 2-0 victory over fellow strugglers Portsmouth at the Ricoh Arena.

Winger McSheffrey netted his eighth goal of the season ten minutes after half-time and, after a spell of pressure from Pompey, midfielder Oliver Norwood made the three points safe against the run of play 14 minutes from the end.

The result sees Andy Thorn's side end a run of four consecutive draws and, despite staying in the relegation zone, move to within a point of Bristol City, who held Middlesbrough to a 1-1 draw today.

However, things look bleak for Portsmouth, whose best chance came via Chris Maguire, but his free-kick crashed against the post.

Michael Appleton's side failed to build on their impressive midweek defeat of promotion contenders Birmingham and stay bottom, six points adrift of safety.

A frantic start to the game saw both goalkeepers tested as Sammy Clingan fired in a free-kick that needed a strong parry to safety from Jamie Ashdown and Chris Maguire's 20-yard strike tested Joe Murphy.

Maguire had another shot saved by Murphy while, at the other end, Clive Platt headed straight at Ashdown, who then produced a superb save to deny the striker following good play by defender Richard Keogh as Coventry started to take control.

Portsmouth could have taken the lead, but Luke Varney headed Greg Halford's cross over the top from close range.

Six minutes before half-time, experienced defender Tal Ben-Haim tried his luck from distance, only to see his shot fly over the crossbar and Varney also fluffed his lines once again.

Portsmouth continued where they left off in the first half, Murphy having to be alert to keep out Joel Ward's 20-yard strike.

Boss Thorn replaced Conor Thomas with Gael Bigirimana at half-time and his side showed more urgency as Keogh headed on to the roof of the net from another teasing Clingan set-piece.

Left-back Hussey, recalled to the side at the expense of Nathan Cameron, tested Ashdown while Norwood, who netted a stoppage-time equaliser on Tuesday to salvage a 2-2 draw with Cardiff, fired wide.

But Coventry soon broke the deadlock as Hussey's scuffed shot from distance fell at the feet of McSheffrey, who side-footed into the net from 12 yards.

Portsmouth tried to respond as Maguire brought another save from Murphy, but Clingan almost doubled his side's advantage with a free-kick that was well parried by Ashdown.

The visitors enjoyed a spell of possession that almost brought a goal, but Maguire's 20-yard free-kick crashed off the post and, after some dogged defending, the ball was cleared.

McSheffrey tried to net his and Coventry's second, firing over from distance, before Norwood found the top corner from six yards in the 77th minute to make the game safe.

Murphy denied George Thorne and Marko Futacs consolations late on.



STEVE BULL

Lambert has some way to go

RICKIE Lambert's goalscoring feats in recent years have made him the Football League's most amazing phenomena of the last four decades.

Lambert's triple at Millwall last weekend saw his career domestic goals tally hit 201.

Of those, a staggering 115 have come in the last three and a half seasons!

Only two other strikers can lay claim to such consistent scoring feats over three successive seasons or more since the mid 1960s.

One of them is a former Dell striker, Ted MacDougall.

He blitzed 119 goals in just three seasons playing for Bournemouth in the late 60s and early 70s.

In 1971/72 he belted 49

league and cup goals, and was just two short of equalling that total the following term.

But even Super Ted can't beat the incredible scoring feats of Wolves legend Steve Bull.

In 1987/88, Bull's first season with the club, he belted 52 league and cup goals during a term in which Wolves won the old Fourth Division title

and also the Sherpa Van Trophy at Wembley.

The following season, in the old Third Division, Bull netted another 50 goals – 37 of which came in the league.

To score a half-century of goals two years running is a feat which has never been equalled since, and probably never will.

The goals also won Bull a

RICK IS THE MAN



SPOT ON: v Watford this season.



SPOT ON: v Carlisle at Wembley.



SPOT ON: v Southend in the last game of 2009/10.

SPOT ON: Lambert scores from a penalty against Birmingham this season.



TURN TO PAGE 13 FOR TERRY PAINE'S EXCLUSIVE COLUMN

Saints Spotlight

to match Bull's Wolves tally

senior England call-up – this when he was playing in what is now League 1, remember.

Even more memorably, he proceeded to score on his England debut in a 2-0 victory against Scotland at Hampden Park in May 1989.

In 1989/90, Bull's first full season in the second tier, he scored 27 more goals, and

repeated that amount the season after.

That made it 156 goals in just four seasons.

For Lambert to equal that, he will need to score 41 more goals in Saints' last eight league games, starting this weekend against Doncaster.

That gives an indication of just how prolific the amazing Steve Bull was.

GOALS RECORD

RICKIE LAMBERT

| | Gls | Div |
|---------------|------------|-----|
| 2008/09 | 29 | 3 |
| 2009/10 | 37 | 3 |
| 2010/11 | 21 | 3 |
| 2011/12 | 28 | 2 |
| Total: | 115 | |

STEVE BULL

| | | |
|---------------|------------|---|
| 1987/88 | 52 | 4 |
| 1988/89 | 50 | 3 |
| 1989/90 | 27 | 2 |
| 1990/91 | 27 | 2 |
| Total: | 156 | |

TED MACDOUGALL

| | | |
|---------------|------------|---|
| 1969/70 | 23 | 3 |
| 1970/71 | 49 | 4 |
| 1971/72 | 47 | 3 |
| Total: | 119 | |



TED MacDOUGALL



Royals bounce back

READING remain Saints' closest challengers for the title as they beat play-off hopefuls Blackpool 3-1 at the Madejski Stadium.

The Royals responded well to their mid-week defeat at Peterborough and led 2-0 through goals from Ian Harte (30) and Alex Pearce (35) but Lomana LuaLua gave the Seaside hope with a goal four minutes before the break.

Mikele Leigertwood's strike on the hour mark made sure of the win for Brian McDermott's team, who extended their lead over third-placed West Ham to four points after the Hammers could only take a point at Burnley, their fifth draw in a row.

They looked as though they would leave Lancashire with nothing after falling behind to goals from Marvin Bartley (25) and Martin Paterson (36) but two goals in two minutes from Kevin Nolan and James Tomkins (68 and 70) brought them back into the match.

The gap between third and fourth remains seven points as Brighton were held 1-1 at Nottingham Forest.

Sam Vokes gave the Seagulls a 63rd-minute lead but the sending-off of Matthew Sparrow was quickly followed by Joel Lynch's leveller in the fourth minute of injury time.

Middlesbrough moved above Blackpool into fifth thanks to a 1-1 draw at Bristol City, a result which left both sides without a win in four matches.

Hogan Ephraim marked his Robins debut following a loan move from QPR with an early goal but substitute Malaury Martin equalised for Boro.

Hull remain two points outside the play-off places following a 2-1 defeat at Leicester.

Matty Fryatt put the Tigers 1-0 up with an eighth-minute goal against his old club, but the Foxes fought back through Lloyd Dyer (18) and Ben Marshall (19) and took the points despite the 57th-minute dismissal of Neil Danns.

Hull have now won just one of their last nine games.

Derby ended Crystal Palace's ten-match unbeaten run with a 3-2 win at Pride Park. The Rams raced into a 3-0 lead with goals from Steve Davies (6), Jeff Hendrick (29) and Theo Robinson's 49th-minute penalty but the Eagles threatened a comeback as Chris Martin (79) and Darren Ambrose (90) pulled goals back.

Watford extended their unbeaten run to six with a 2-1 win over Ipswich. Paul Jewell's men led through Jay Emmanuel-Thomas (18) put Watford hit back through Sean Murray (71) and Troy Deeney won it eight minutes from the end.

Barnsley ended a seven-match winless run as David Cotterill's 24th-minute goal was enough to see off Peterborough at Oakwell. The Tykes had Nathan Doyle sent off in the 32nd minute.

● The Sports Pink apologises for the lack of any AFC Bournemouth stories or match reports this week.

That is because the Cherries took the step this week of banning our sister paper, the *Bournemouth Echo*, from the Seward Stadium.

The *Bournemouth Echo* has therefore decided not to cover the club at all in its pages until the situation is resolved.

As a result, and given the BE staff provide the Sports Pink stories and reports, we have also followed suit.

ON THE SPOT

Penalty king Rickie closing in on Le Tiss's spot kick crown



RICKIE Lambert's dramatic spot-kick double at Millwall extended his exceptional penalty-taking record.

The Saints striker has now scored his last 29 competitive spot-kicks.

That remarkable run dates back to February 2009 when he missed one while playing for Bristol Rovers against Leicester. Mark Bunn saved his spot-kick on that occasion.

Since then, he has scored three for Rovers and 26 out of 26 for Saints.

Lambert still lags behind Matt Le Tissier, who scored an incredible 47 penalties during his time with Saints.

But Lambert is now fast closing in on Mick Channon, who scored 29 penalties for Saints and is second behind Le Tissier

in the list of post-war Saints with most penalties.

Lambert went above David Peach with his second penalty at Millwall.

The rate at which Lambert's penalties have come is startling. He converted nine in his first season at St Mary's, eight in the last campaign, and nine again this term after last weekend's double strike at The New Den.

TOP SAINTS' POST-WAR PENALTY TAKERS

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1 Matt Le Tissier | 47 |
| 2 Mick Channon | 29 |
| 3 Rickie Lambert | 26 |
| 4 David Peach | 25 |
| 5 John Page | 21 |
| 6 George O'Brien | 20 |
| 7 Terry Paine | 17 |
| 8 Eric Day | 16 |
| 9 James Beattie | 12 |
| 10 Bill Ellerington | 9 |



SPOT ON: Lambert scores against Brighton this season, above left, and Yeovil, above, in 2009/10.
















SPOT ON: Lambert scores at Notts County last season.

TURN TO PAGES 19-25 FOR NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2011/12

| | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| AUGUST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 6 Leeds | H | W 3-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Martin | Harding | Do Prado** | Hammond*** 1 | Cork | Lallana 1 | Lambert | Connolly* 1 | De Ridder* | Chaplow** | Schneiderlin** |
| Tues 9 Torquay (CC1) | H | W 4-1 | Bialkowski | Butterfield | Seaborne | Martin | Dickson | De Ridder** 1 | Chaplow 1 | Schneiderlin | Holmes* | Lambert 1 | Do Prado*** | Lallana* | Hammond** | Forte*** 1 |
| Sat 13 Barnsley | A | W 1-0 | Davis | Richardson | Seaborne | Seaborne | Harding | Do Prado* | Hammond | Cork | Lallana*** | Lambert | Connolly** 1 | Chaplow* | De Ridder** | Schneiderlin*** |
| Tues 16 Ipswich | A | W 5-2 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Seaborne | Harding | Do Prado* | Hammond | Cork | Lallana*** 2 | Lambert 2 | Connolly** 1 | Schneiderlin* | Fox** | De Ridder*** |
| Sat 20 Millwall | H | W 1-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Seaborne | Harding | Do Prado 1 | Hammond* | Cork | Lallana** | Lambert | Connolly*** | Schneiderlin* | Fox** | De Ridder*** |
| Sat 27 Leicester | A | L 2-3 | Davis | Richardson* | Fonte | Seaborne | Harding*** 1 | Do Prado** | Hammond | Cork | Lallana | Lambert | Connolly 1 | Schneiderlin* | De Ridder** | Fox*** |
| Tues 30 Swindon (CC2) | A | W 3-1 | Bialkowski | Richardson | Seaborne | Martin | Harding | Holmes** | Schneiderlin | Cork | Lallana | Forte* 1 | Do Prado*** 1 | Lambert* 1 | Hammond** | Hoskins*** |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 10 Nottm Forest | H | W 3-2 | Davis | Cork | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado* | Hammond | Hammond | Lallana | Lambert 3 | Connolly** | Chaplow* | De Ridder** | Schneiderlin** |
| Sun 18 Birmingham | H | W 4-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado* 1 | Hammond | Cork** | Lallana*** 1 | Lambert 1 | Connolly | Chaplow* 1 | Schneiderlin** | De Ridder*** |
| Wed 21 Preston (CC3) | H | W 2-1 | Bialkowski | Butterfield | Martin | Hooiveld | Dickson | De Ridder* | Schneiderlin | Chaplow | Holmes | Reeves | Forte*** | Lallana* 1 | Fonte** | Lambert*** |
| Sat 24 Burnley | A | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado* | Hammond*** | Cork | Lallana | Lambert | Connolly | Chaplow* | Schneiderlin** 1 | |
| Wed 28 Cardiff | A | L 1-2 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado | Schneiderlin | Cork** | Lallana | Lambert | Connolly* | De Ridder* 1 | Chaplow** | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 1 Watford | H | W 4-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | De Ridder* | Hammond | Cork** | Lallana*** | Lambert 2 | Do Prado 1 | Chaplow* | Schneiderlin** | Holmes*** 1 |
| Sat 15 Derby | A | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson** | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado*** | Schneiderlin | Cork | Chaplow* | Lambert 1 | Connolly | De Ridder* | Hammond** | Harding*** |
| Tues 18 West Ham | H | W 1-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld 1 | Fox | Do Prado*** | Hammond | Schneiderlin | Chaplow* | Lambert | Connolly** | Harding* | Cork** | De Ridder*** |
| Sat 22 Reading | A | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte* | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado*** | Hammond | Cork | Chaplow | Lambert | Connolly** | Martin* | De Ridder** 1 | Schneiderlin*** |
| Tues 25 Crystal Palace (CC4) | A | L 0-2 | Bialkowski | Butterfield | Martin | Cork | Harding | De Ridder | Ward-Prowse | Schneiderlin | Holmes** | Reeves*** | Forte* | Lambert** | Do Prado*** | |
| Sat 29 Middlesbrough | H | W 3-0 | Davis | Butterfield | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Chaplow | Hammond*** | Cork | Lallana** | Lambert | Do Prado* 2 | Connolly* 1 | Schneiderlin** | De Ridder*** |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues 1 Peterborough | H | W 2-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld 1 | Harding | Chaplow*** 1 | Hammond | Schneiderlin | Lallana** | Lambert | Do Prado* | De Ridder* | Connolly** | Cork*** |
| Sat 5 Coventry | A | W 4-2 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Chaplow* 1 | Cork | Schneiderlin | Lallana*** 1 | Lambert | Do Prado*** 1 | Hammond* | De Ridder** 1 | Connolly*** |
| Sat 19 Brighton | H | W 3-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Chaplow | Hammond* | Cork | Lallana** | Lambert 3 | Do Prado*** | Schneiderlin* | De Ridder** | Barnard*** |
| Sat 26 Bristol City | A | L 0-2 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Chaplow | Hammond | Cork | Lallana** | Lambert | Do Prado*** | Schneiderlin* | De Ridder** | Barnard*** |
| Tues 29 Hull | H | W 2-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Harding | Schneiderlin | Hammond | Cork* | Lallana 1 | Lambert** | Do Prado*** 1 | De Ridder* | Barnard** | Holmes*** |
| DECEMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3 Doncaster | A | L 0-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | De Ridder* | Hammond | Cork** | Lallana | Schneiderlin | Do Prado | Holmes* | Barnard** | |
| Sat 10 Blackpool | H | D 2-2 | Bialkowski | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox** | Schneiderlin | Hammond* | Cork | Lallana | Lambert 2 | Do Prado | De Ridder* | Harding** | |
| Sun 18 Portsmouth | A | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox* | Schneiderlin | Hammond | Cork | Lallana | Lambert 1 | Do Prado | Harding* | Hammond** | |
| Mon 26 Crystal Palace | H | W 2-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | De Ridder* | Schneiderlin** | Cork | Lallana | Lambert | Do Prado 2 | Connolly* | Hammond** | |
| Fri 30 Bristol City | H | L 0-1 | Davis | Richardson*** | Martin | Hooiveld | Fox | De Ridder | Schneiderlin** | Cork | Lallana* | Lambert | Do Prado | Connolly* | Hammond** | Holmes*** |
| JANUARY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 2 Brighton | A | L 0-3 | Davis | Richardson | Martin | Hooiveld | Harding* | Do Prado** | Hammond | Cork | Lallana*** | Lambert | Connolly | Fox* | Forte** | Reeves*** |
| Sat 7 Coventry (FAC 3) | A | W 2-1 | Bialkowski | Harding*** | Martin 1 | Hooiveld | Fox | Schneiderlin | Hammond | Cork | W-Prowse** 1 | Lallana | Doble* | Hoskins* | Reeves** | Stephens*** |
| Sat 14 Notts Forest | A | W 3-0 | Davis | Harding** | Martin | Hooiveld | Fox | Cork | Hammond | Schneiderlin 1 | Lallana*** | Do Prado* 1 | Connolly | Holmes* | Butterfield** | Reeves*** |
| Mon 23 Leicester | H | L 0-2 | Davis | Harding | Martin | Hooiveld*** | Fox | Cork | Hammond** | Schneiderlin | Falque* | Do Prado | Connolly | Holmes* | De Ridder** | Richardson*** |
| Sat 28 Millwall (FAC) | A | D 1-1 | Bialkowski | Harding | Martin | Fox | Richardson | De Ridder* | Hammond | Reeves | Puncheon*** | Lambert 1 | Barnard** | Holmes* | Lee** | Shaw*** |
| Tues 31 Cardiff | H | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Martin | Fox | Puncheon* | Schneiderlin | Cork | Lallana | Lambert 1 | Connolly** | Lee* | Hammond** | |
| FEBRUARY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 4 Birmingham | A | D 0-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Martin | Fox | Puncheon** | Schneiderlin | Cork*** | Lallana | Lambert | Connolly* | Sharp* | Do Prado** | Hammond*** |
| Tues 7 Millwall (FAC replay) | H | L 2-3 | Bialkowski | Richardson | Fonte | Martin | Harding | De Ridder*** | Hammond | Chaplow** | Lallana 1 | Do Prado* | Lee | Lambert* 1 | Reeves** | Barnard*** |
| Sat 11 Burnley | A | W 2-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado** | Cork | Schneiderlin | Lallana 1 | Lambert*** | Sharp* | Connolly* | Hammond** | Lee** |
| Tues 14 West Ham | A | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson** | Fonte | Hooiveld 1 | Fox | Do Prado* | Cork | Schneiderlin | Lallana | Lambert | Sharp*** | Puncheon* | Connolly** | Hammond*** |
| Sat 18 Derby | H | W 4-0 | Davis | Harding | Fonte | Hooiveld* 1 | Fox | Chaplow*** | Cork | Schneiderlin | Lallana 1 | Lambert | Sharp** | Martin* 1 | Lee** 1 | Puncheon*** |
| Sat 25 Watford | A | W 3-0 | Davis | Butterfield | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Chaplow | Cork | Schneiderlin | Lallana* | Lambert*** 3 | Lee** | Puncheon* | Hammond** | Connolly*** |
| MARCH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3 Leeds | A | W 1-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox*** | Chaplow | Cork | Schneiderlin | Puncheon* | Lambert 1 | Lee** | Hammond* | Do Prado** | Harding*** |
| Tues 6 Ipswich | H | D 1-1 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Harding | Do Prado* | Hammond | Schneiderlin | Lallana*** | Lambert 1 | Lee** | De Ridder* | Sharp** | Cork*** |
| Sat 10 Barnsley | H | W 2-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Do Prado | Hammond | Schneiderlin | Lallana*** 2 | Lambert* | Lee** | Cork* | Connolly** | Sharp*** |
| Sat 17 Millwall | A | W 3-2 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld | Fox | Chaplow* | Hammond** | Schneiderlin | Lallana*** | Lambert 3 | Do Prado | De Ridder* | Sharp** | Cork*** |
| Tues 20 Hull | A | W 2-0 | Davis | Richardson | Fonte | Hooiveld 1 | Fox*** | Puncheon** | Cork | Schneiderlin | Lallana | Lambert | Do Prado* | De Ridder* | Hammond** | Harding*** |
| Sat 24 Doncaster | H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 31 Blackpool | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| APRIL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 7 Portsmouth | H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 9 Crystal Palace | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri 13 Reading | H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues 17 Peterborough | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 21 Middlesbrough | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 28 Coventry | H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | LA | LG | CA | CG | CSA | CSG | | LA | LG | CA | CG | CSA | CSG | | LA | LG | CA | CG | CSA | CSG |
|--------------------|-------|----|------|----|--------|-----|---------------------|--------|----|------|----|---------|-----|-------------------|-------|----|------|----|-------|-----|
| KELVIN DAVIS | 36 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 266 | 0 | STEVE DE RIDDER | 4(21) | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9(21) | 4 | RYAN DOBLE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 41(1) | 0 | RICHARD CHAPLOW | 12(7) | 3 | 3 | 1 | 42(10) | 6 | DANNY FOX | 28(4) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 31(4) | 0 |
| TOMMY FORECAST | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | DEAN HAMMOND | 25(10) | 1 | 3(3) | 0 | 123(14) | 11 | JOS HOOIVLED | 31 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 6 |
| DANNY BUTTERFIELD | 2(1) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 41(4) | 0 | JACK CORK | 32(5) | 0 | 4 | 0 | 60(6) | 0 | JAMES WARD-PROWSE | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| FRAZER RICHARDSON | 31 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 52(7) | 0 | MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN | 24(12) | 2 | 6 | 0 | 126(27) | 3 | SAM HOSKINS | 0 | 0 | 0(2) | 0 | 0(2) | 0 |
| DAN HARDING | 12(6) | 1 | 5 | 0 | 110(9) | 5 | ADAM LALLANA | 32 | 10 | 4(2) | 2 | 166(19) | 46 | JACK STEPHENS | 0 | 0 | 0(1) | 0 | 0(1) | 0 |
| RYAN DICKSON | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 19(11) | 1 | LEE HOLMES | 0(5) | 1 | 4(1) | 0 | 21(21) | 3 | YAGO FALQUE | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| BEN REEVES | 0(2) | 0 | 3(2) | 0 | 3(4) | 0 | RICKIE LAMBERT | 34 | 24 | 3(4) | 5 | 142(7) | 85 | JASON PUNCHEON | 3(3) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 44(3) | 3 |
| JOSE FONTE | 33 | 0 | 2(1) | 0 | 107(1) | 7 | LEE BARNARD | 0(4) | 0 | 1(2) | 0 | 45(26) | 24 | TADANARI LEE | 4(2) | 1 | 1(2) | 0 | 5(4) | 1 |
| RADHI JAIDI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67(1) | 4 | GULY DO PRADO | 33(2) | 10 | 3(1) | 1 | 63(15) | 22 | LUKE SHAW | 0 | 0 | 0(1) | 0 | 0(1) | 0 |
| AARON MARTIN | 6(2) | 1 | 8 | 0 | 22(6) | 1 | DAVID CONNOLLY | 16(9) | 6 | 1 | 0 | 37(30) | 17 | BILLY SHARP | 3(4) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3(4) | 0 |
| DAN SEABORNE | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 35(15) | 0 | JONATHAN FORTE | 0(1) | 0 | 3(1) | 2 | 5(10) | 4 | | | | | | | |

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**



Pressure cooker...

Promotion prize will go to manager who can keep his cool

COOL CUSTOMER:
Saints boss
Nigel Adkins.

PRESSURE and expectation is a weird beast in the world of sport.

It can do things to you that you never thought possible, can turn you into something other than what you think you are.

Some might argue it reveals the real person behind the sports kit, stripped of all facades and ego in the very whitest heat of battle.

Others will say that the chemical reaction that forces you to feel pressure inhibits you from being who and what you naturally are.

Either way it has quite unpredictable consequences. Nowhere has it been more starkly displayed than in the race for automatic promotion from the Championship.

Contenders have come and gone to leave just three – Saints, Reading and West Ham.

They are all carrying the burden of pressure but it's the Hammers who are buckling.

Managing expectations is almost as important as managing the team for a football manager but sometimes there is no disguising what your club is.

In West Ham's case it's one that feels that it is too big to be in the Championship, that has the budget and ambitions of a top flight side and expects to return to that level immediately.

When only promotion will do, and automatic at that, there is very little room for error.

It is surely no coincidence that Sam Allardyce's (pictured below) Hammers have been struggling at home whilst proving a superbly consistent side on the road.

That weight of expectation is on them, and the pressure only grows every time you fail to secure the win your home fans crave.

Right now it looks like that might just derail their hopes.

As West Ham start to fade, Reading and Saints are dealing with their own pressures.

Nigel

Adkins is undoubtedly under pressure himself from within the club to get Saints up this season but the general expectations of the city have not been as high as those that surround West Ham.

Saints didn't come into the Championship on the back of a relegation, but instead a promotion, and that makes all the difference.

They don't have to contend with the expectation to bounce back immediately and instead are riding the crest of a wave, their fans having revelled in almost three seasons now where they have become accustomed to seeing their side win most weeks.

Adkins isn't really having to manage the expectations of the fans – he's having to keep the players grounded, to ensure that they don't wobble if they start to feel the pressure.

You think it is inevitable they will feel it when the finishing line is clearly in sight, but as to whether it merely makes their legs shake a bit or puts them down will probably be dependant on the level of pressure that Reading and West Ham put them under.

Reading are in a different situation again.

Only a few months ago many of their fans were writing off their hopes of even a play-off place but an extraordinary winning run has put them right in the mix.

They stumbled in midweek, as they had to at some point, and the challenge now for them with the momentum having gone with their defeat at Peterborough is to readjust.

Can they barrel through it and continue as they were, with that mindset of being the plucky underdogs coming from nowhere to steal promotion?

Or will they now see themselves as real contenders for the top two and then have the pressure and expectation that that places upon your shoulders?

They say you shouldn't speak too soon but given the chance to be in anyone's shoes you would opt for Saints all day long. Maybe that will prove the difference.

Female sport stars have a tough task

YOU can only have sympathy for some female sports stars.

As if it's not tough enough trying to compete at the very top level there is also an expectation placed upon them surrounding their appearance.

It struck Adam Rant once more that this was the case when listening to the post-match analysis of tennis star Victoria Azarenka, pictured – her of the extraordinarily high pitched grunt – as she mopped up an Indian Wells title to keep her unbeaten for the year and on course to 'do a Djokovic'.



The focus for a reasonable part of the discussion was over what she wore for the final, dressing as she did for the cool conditions on the day by wearing three-quarter length sports leggings under her kit.

All right, it was perhaps an unusual look for a final, but she was out there to win and was not on a catwalk.

It would be wrong to pretend that nobody talks about the looks of male sports stars, unfortunately we live in a world that is increasingly superficial, but there isn't the same pressure on them that women seem to have to carry.

Sport fans benefit from the budget

IN amongst all the rights and wrongs of the budget it has somewhat slipped under the radar that there was a significant boost for sport.

The taxation rules that were putting many of the world's top stars off from competing over here anymore than absolutely necessary are to be altered.

Rafa Nadal, pictured, opted not to play at Queen's this year because of the regime, which penalised him not only for prize money but also for his sponsorship cash.

The new rules will take into account training days which will lessen the impact.



You might argue that he is wealthy and can afford it, but, like the argument made for reducing the top rate of tax, if the business merely goes elsewhere, if these exceptionally rich people simply find a way not to pay what they view as an extortionate tax hit, then it is of limited benefit to the country anyway.

Sport brings in many financial benefits to the country, and having the very high profile stars competing on these shores can only be a good thing for the country. The tax payer shouldn't have to subsidise that, but if the Exchequer makes a slightly less substantial sum from it initially but the number of events and high profile participants increases then it will prove more lucrative anyway in the long run.

Sports Quiz

- 1 Which Super League club does Australian stand-off Brett Finch play for?
- 2 San Mames is the home ground of which Spanish football club?
- 3 Which three county sides has Kevin Pietersen played for?
- 4 Snooker player Judd Trump is from which city?
- 5 In which city do Major League Baseball team the Blue Jays play their home games?
- 6 How many goals have Wolves conceded in caretaker boss Terry Connor's four games in charge?
- 7 How many caps has Danny Cipriani won for England?
- 8 British boxer Carl Froch hails from which city?
- 9 Who is the all-time leading goalscorer in international football?
- 10 Who is the reigning men's world 100 metres champion?
- 11 Which driver scored his maiden world championship points in Sunday's Australian Grand Prix?
- 12 Wales captain Sam Warburton plays his club rugby for which side?
- 13 Former England striker Gary Lineker played for which three English clubs in his 17-year career?
- 14 James Magnussen is a world champion in which sport?
- 15 World tennis number one Victoria Azarenka remains unbeaten in 2012 having won how many matches - 23, 25 or 27?
- 16 How many Super League Grand Finals have Leeds Rhinos won?
- 17 Which Russian club does former Blackburn defender Christopher Samba play for?
- 18 In which year did Jacques Villeneuve win the Formula One drivers' title?
- 19 Ireland batsman Paul Stirling plays for which county?
- 20 When did Peyton Manning win the Super Bowl with the Indianapolis colts?
- 21 Romain Grosjean is a driver for which Formula 1 team?
- 22 Which Stobart Super League side play their home games at New Craven Park?
- 23 Hannah Whelan represents Great Britain at which Olympic sport?
- 24 How many times has Tiger Woods been named PGA Player of the Year?
- 25 Who is the captain of Ireland's national cricket team?
- 26 Which Super 15 club does Danny Cipriani play for?
- 27 Jan Mucha is a goalkeeper with which Barclays Premier League club?
- 28 Who is the West Indies Test captain?
- 29 Which British city will host the opening ceremony of the 2013 rugby league World Cup?
- 30 Which United States city is home to the Nuggets and Broncos.

Answers

1 Wigan; 2 Athletic Bilbao; 3 Nottinghamshire and Surrey; 4 Bristol; 5 Toronto; 6 14; 7 Seven; 8 Nottingham; 9 Ali Daei; 10 Yohan Blake; 11 Daniel Ricciardo; 12 Cardiff Blues; 13 Leicester; 14 Tottenham; 15 23; 16 Five; 17 Anzhi; 18 23; 19 23; 20 2006; 21 Lotus; 22 Middlesbrough; 23 Arsenal; 24 Hull KR; 25 William Porterfield; 26 10; 27 William Porterfield; 28 Melbourne Rebels; 29 Cardiff; 30 Denver.



THANKS A LOT: Jose Fonte claps the Saints fans after the midweek win at Hull.

THIS is our time, let's enjoy it ...

There are certain occasions in a season that are defining.

Some of them involve epic performances and epic results.

But some of them involve a perfect storm of results that fall in perfect symmetry and enhance your prospects no end.

Tuesday's results were such an example with Saints earning a terrific win away at Hull, West Ham drawing at home again and Reading falling prey to the most unexpected result of the night.

That put Saints seven and five points ahead of the Hammers and the Royals respectively and adding a real impetus to this weekend's game at home to Doncaster.

If you estimated that 85 points will get you promoted, a win against Rovers would give Saints a target of seven points from their remaining seven games.

And with Reading at home as one of those games, you'd have to be excited at our chances of not just promotion but the title itself.

Going up as champions is no more than this remarkable Saints side deserves.

It's a side that, pound for pound, league for league, is as good as any Saints side I've seen.

If any club deserved a bit of silverware then it's Southampton FC, a club that hit rock bottom before performing what must be, surely, one of the greatest turnarounds in English football.

Administration one season, three years later, one trophy win at Wembley, possibly two successive promotions and, hopefully, a league title.

This stunning transformation is in no small way, down to the chairman Nicola Cortese.

He has taken this club kicking and screaming into the 21st century.

We all knew that Southampton FC had something to offer a philanthropic businessman looking for a project with potential.

It's just a crying shame Markus Leibherr never got to see the fruits of his vision.

However, if I'm honest, really honest, should we gain promotion, am I the only one hoping the FA could introduce a new ruling that gives us the Sky money and allows us to stay in the Championship to defend our title?

Am I alone in not wanting to leave this league?

I got into an argument online, hard to believe I know but it happened, and it centred around the so called big clubs.

A plastic Scouser, with as many visits to Anfield as the Pope has, was lecturing me on why his club was better than mine.

It seemed that this particular plastic viewed that the only reason to support a club was to win trophies.

Supporting your local team seemed beyond him.

He was born in Grimsby, and only if you won major trophies were you a real club.

With that sort of thinking, why would any of us support any other club than, say, the top five clubs in England?

Why bother with grass roots football?

Just sling on a Liverpool shirt, learn the lyrics to "You'll never walk alone" and off you go.

The harsh truth is that supporting your local team isn't easy, far from it.

There are occasions when your mates, who support one of the so-called glamorous big five clubs, are informing you how great their team is (even though they don't watch them live) and how crap your team is (even though you watch them weekly).

But there's something quite special about supporting your team through thick and thin.

The lows are most definitely lower but there's nothing that can compare to that moment when it's your time in the sun.

You may not win the Champions League, or the Premiership title, but that one moment is uniquely yours.

It's not some soulless celebration at home as Liverpool/Man Utd/Chelsea win a trophy and you crack open a can of Fosters and put your replica shirt away for another season.

This is our time.

Southampton's time and, let's be honest, it's been a long time coming.

Years of struggling, making do; being the butt of the media's ire as chairman after chairman struggled to find any level of success, mixed with odd moments of stupidity.

Finally, after all of that, Saints are finally in the spotlight and fully deserved it is too.

Unlike Portsmouth, Southampton are a club that paid their dues, sank down two leagues and sold their crown jewels to keep afloat.

Call it karma but if any club deserved success it's Southampton.

Next season we may be back to being small fish in a big pool.

But right now, this is our time.

Enjoy every moment. You've earned it.

EMAIL YOUR VIEWS ON SAINTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



JUST below the top two, the battle for third and fourth spot in the Premier League is taking place.

A remarkable resurgence in Arsenal's performances has seen them catch and pass an ailing Tottenham side.

The Gunners were a staggering 12 points behind their north London rivals on February 1.

But they moved into the top three for the first time this season after winning at Everton in midweek, thanks to Thomas Vermaelen's goal.

Also-rans saddle up for a big race to the finish

Arsene Wenger, who has come in for lots of criticism this season, including from me, has shown great resilience in himself and the team.

It is hard to believe they were in seventh place as recently as seven weeks ago.

The likelihood is they will now finish in the top four and earn a Champions League place, which is so important not only financially but also in persuading the Premier League's top scorer Robin van Persie to remain at the club.

However, although it has

been a good spell for the Gunners, the fact remains that another season has passed without silverware.

The cockerel has had little to crow about at White Hart Lane recently. Their 1-1 draw against Stoke saw them slip out of the top three for the first time in three

months.

And third place is huge, because it means automatic qualification for the Champions League group stages.

Having failed to win a fourth consecutive league match, Spurs have been in free fall in the last month. But Harry Redknapp has warned Arsenal to expect a fight to the finish.

As he says, there could still be many twists and turns before the end of the season.

Who is the best of all?

I AM often asked who was the best player I have ever seen or played against.

It is a subject that is so difficult to answer, as different eras produce outstanding players.

Had you asked me in the 1960s or 70s then Pele would have topped my list.

But then, into the 1980s, it was Maradona who became all the rage.

What I do believe is in my past, and during my time playing, there were more outstanding players than there are today.

But there is one man, the little Argentinian

Lionel Messi, pictured, who will have to go down among the very best.

He has rewritten the history books, with his brilliant hat-trick against Granada in midweek taking his goal tally for Barcelona to 234, overtaking the club's previous record holder, Cesar Rodriguez, who had a prolific spell with the Catalan giants in the 1940s and 50s.

Incredibly, Messi is still only 24-years-old.

It feels like only yesterday that his time at the club began.

Actually, it was in October 2004 that he first burst onto the scene. Since then, he has scored 153 goals in La Liga, 49 in the Champions League, 19 in the Copa del Rey, eight in the Spanish Super Cup, one in the European Super Cup and four in the Club World Cup.

And perhaps the best is still yet to come.

Crunch time for the top flight's big guns

AS SO many commentators have mentioned, it is squeaky bum time for managers and their clubs as the various leagues in England reach the point where a marathon becomes a sprint.

This is the time of the season when all the various clubs' hard work and planning either disappears or they go on and achieve their just rewards.

Manchester United, under Sir Alex Ferguson, have shown remarkable fortitude in coming from off the pace to topple Manchester City from top spot.

Their 5-0 thrashing of Wolves not only garnered three precious points, but also ate into their rivals' goal difference.

It has been a funny old season for United.

Bundled out of the Champions League, then failing to make inroads in the Europa League, where they were knocked out by Spanish club Athletic Bilbao, had us all scratching our heads regarding the consistency of their performances this season.

But Ferguson is determined to silence United's noisy neighbours and, although on paper they have the easier run-in, Manchester City showed great resilience in coming back from a 1-0 deficit against an improved Chelsea to win 2-1 on Wednesday.

It was a sight for sore eyes and hearts when Roberto Mancini brought Carlos Tevez in from the cold as a second half substitute.

For some of the City faithful it was too much, and boos rang out round the City of Manchester Stadium at the Argentine's introduction.

Many are still angered by his self-

imposed six-month exile from the club, following his refusal to warm up during a Champions League match.

But the fact he made the most subtle of passes to set up Samir Nasri's winning goal in midweek will go a long way to placating certain supporters.

The three points moved City closer to United and created a 20th consecutive home league win – a record in the Premier League era, and something only managed for the fourth time in the history of the top flight.

For Chelsea, their recovery is still there for all to see.

Roberto Di Matteo, the club's interim manager, has reinvigorated his players, preferring to start with Fernando Torres, whose two goals in the FA Cup against Leicester broke a long barren spell for the striker.

Torres had gone five months without a goal since finding the back of the net against Genk in October.

In fact, his second against Leicester was just his seventh goal in 13 months at the club.

But his confidence will hopefully have been boosted now and he can perhaps eradicate the tag of being a £50m flop.

Chelsea had stunned City by taking the lead after Gary Cahill's shot deflected past Joe Hart.

But City were not to be denied, as Sergio Aguero's penalty and Nasri's clever finish saw them home.

It is so tight at the top that Ferguson believes the title could well hang on goal difference.

I prefer to believe that April 30 will be the defining moment, when United travel to City in what many believe will be the crucial encounter.



GAME CHANGER: Could the return of Carlos Tevez be Man City boss Roberto Mancini's trump card in the title race?



Saints Spotlight

Rudi sets sights on cup final

RUDI Skacel hopes for a repeat success in the William Hill Scottish Cup with Hearts after helping the Edinburgh side set up a semi-final with holders Celtic.

The former Saints star scored his 10th goal against St Mirren in six games since his return to Hearts in this week's 2-0 quarter-final replay win in Paisley to make certain of their progression to the April 15 clash with Celtic. The 2006 Scottish Cup win at Hampden was Skacel's final appearance before he moved to Saints and he is aiming to repeat the victory in his second spell at Tynecastle.

"Last time we won the cup, it was an amazing memory and I want to do it again," Skacel said.

"Our supporters were amazing and I always remember it. It was incredible, it was like we won the World Cup and that is great motivation.

"The semi-final is 50-50, some might say we can't win but we have a big motivation, half the stadium and it's only 90 minutes. Anything can happen."



Skacel scored a hat-trick in a 5-2 defeat of St Mirren in January, another strike in the 2-2 quarter-final draw before finding the target again four minutes from time in the replay.

"I was a bit lucky against St Mirren in the last few years," the Czech midfielder added. "I said to (St Mirren manager) Danny Lennon it was our last game against them for this season so he is safe for now." Skacel, pictured above, made his name in Britain during his first spell at Hearts under George Burley in 2005/06.

Burley then persuaded the Michael Wilde regime to splash out £1.6m to bring him to St Mary's in July 2006. Much was expected of the player, but he only scored five goals in 81 Championship appearances before leaving three years later.

Since returning to Hearts last season, after a short spell with Greek club Larissa, Skacel has rediscovered his goal touch - scoring 21 Scottish Premier goals in only 52 outings!

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

MARK Wotte is a man who has found many of his recent projects cut short - so when he says judge him in 2020 he probably deserves the breathing space.

The 51-year-old former Saints boss is loving life north of the border after being appointed the Scottish FA's first ever performance director in July of last year.

His brief is wide ranging, but ultimately boils down to ensuring the next generation of Scottish footballers is considerably better than the ones of recent years.

They have produced a mediocre top flight and a national team that can't qualify for major tournaments.

To its credit, Scottish football in general - from the clubs, to the media, to the fans - had recognised it was in something of a crisis before even the financial meltdown at Rangers.

And they acknowledged the need to challenge the perceived wisdom that has helped them to their current state and try something more radical.

And that's where Wotte comes in - and another old hand from his Saints days, Dean Gorre, who has been recruited to help out.

"Success is 2020," he said.

"We are starting the performance school with 12-year-olds. They will be 18 in 2020.

"You cannot sign up, you need to be selected, it is for elite players in the seven regions.

"The academies in Scotland will develop them still but it means we are able to give young talented players eight or nine training sessions a week which is very important and needed to develop basic skills.

"I hope in 2020 a lot of these kids will be playing professional football and knocking on the door of the national team.

"A new year of the scheme starts every year with a new intake of players so a new generation of young Scottish players will emerge as we try to catch up with the demands of modern football."

It's just one of the ideas that Wotte has put in place since moving north.

He is living in Paisley, near Glasgow airport so he can easily travel to matches and head back to Holland to see his family, and about 15 minutes by car from the national

OPTIMISTIC: Ex-Saints boss Mark Wotte, main pic, hopes his work can ultimately improve the fortunes of Scotland's national team, below.



stadium, Hampden Park.

"It's a different life to being a manager where all that matters is if you are winning or not - even when you work twice as hard during the week as a manager if you don't win then you're not appreciated," he reflected.

Wotte has had a bit of a rough time of it in the last few years.

His stature amongst Saints fans grew for the dignified way he stuck by the club during its financial troubles, but he was rewarded with the sack shortly after the takeover.

He took a job out in

Romania which turned out to be a nightmare and then went to Egypt where he was doing well until the Arab spring.

"I'm more or less a director of football without the hassle of signing players or dealing with agents," he reported.

"Scouting, medical and budget - and it's all very interesting after my last three clubs.

"Firstly of those I was with Southampton and I don't think I could be blamed but had to move on.

"Then I was in Romania which was a terrible experience and then Egypt.

"I was doing well there and enjoying it, we were challenging for the title but then the revolution broke out and they stopped the league so that was also not a happy ending.

"But now I am settled for a couple of years in Scotland to raise the level and then maybe look at going back into management or a director of football role.

"For the time being I'm very happy and I'm enjoying it."

Being interviewed for the job, and up against some impressive names which he says includes one with a cur-

rent Saints connection, was something of a moment of realisation for Wotte as he discovered he could use his years of experience in football.

"At first I was not available for the job because the first time they approached me I was number two in the league with my club in Egypt and had to say it was not for me - I liked it but was still attached.

"But two months later everything changed when they stopped the league.

"I got a phone call again and met Craig Levein (Scotland manager), Stewart Regan (SFA chief executive) and the chairman of the SFA and we had a great chat and I realised everything I've done in football for the last 25 years could be used in this job.

"I taught physical education at Den Haag, started academies, coached the Dutch under-21s and under-19s and put in place a master plan for Dutch football that ten years later saw the team get to the World Cup final.

"After the meeting they wanted to negotiate and I agreed a contract which is evaluated in 2014.

"The funding for my pro-

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Saints Spotlight

Mission possible for Wotte

Ex-Saints boss tasked with turning around Scotland's ailing fortunes

ject is guaranteed until 2015 which is very important because you can have a lot of good ideas and things to improve but if you don't have a budget then it can be a frustrating job but fortunately the SFA are being very supportive."

Wotte has put in place youth coaches he trusts with Billy Stark working with the under-21s, Ricky Sbragia the

under-19s, former Saints coach Gorre the under-17s and Scott Booth, who played under Wotte, working with the under-16s.

Though he doesn't get directly involved with the national team – aside from trying to find players in England who might be eligible for Levein – he does have an overseeing role with the younger teams.

He has already introduced training camps and friendlies for them rather than just playing in qualifying tournaments.

"I want to improve the basic skills of football players in Scotland because the level from what I've seen is not good enough, which shows in the Scottish Premier League and the national team," said Wotte.

"We are trying to change the philosophy and to change the system to pass the ball more than they're used to."

"All this is my basic job and all the teams when they play games abroad I will travel with them and sit with the managers and coaches and give feedback and be a sounding board for them."

You might imagine that Wotte would have come up

against some resistance from a nation not known for welcoming foreign interference in their domestic matters.

"No," replied Wotte, "because in August Celtic, Rangers and Hearts were all out of European competition and in September the national team didn't qualify for the European Championships, even if they were unlucky in the game against the Czech Republic."

"Everybody agrees we have to change something to go up rather than down the hill."

"I've also started building bridges between the clubs and the SFA which is important."

"Of course there is some resistance because in any country people are afraid to make changes, but the majority of people in Scotland know they have to change to get better and improve."

"Craig Levein has been very supportive for my appointment and a driving force behind a lot of the things which is great for me because we have a very good link between the national team and the under-21s and under-19s."

"Co-operation is good."

Wotte still keeps a look out for Saints' results and is hoping to see them back in the Premier League.

He still has a lot of affection for the club, its supporters and his former players.

"I'm very happy for the people, for the fans, who are going to see their club back in the Premier League if they finish the last period of the season like they have played the first ten months," he said.

"It's also nice to see some of my old players like Kelvin Davis, Adam Lallana and Morgan Schneiderlin doing so well."

Boaz: We must win at Cardiff

BIRMINGHAM goalkeeper Boaz Myhill is focused solely on a Blues victory against Cardiff tomorrow as they look to re-ignite their push for promotion from the npower Championship.

Blues had appeared to be a contender for an automatic spot after an 11-game unbeaten league run which was brought to an end by Nottingham Forest in late February.

Since then, Chris Houghton's side have won just once in five games to slip out of the play-off places and ahead of tomorrow's opponents only on goal difference.

By the time the teams meet at St Andrew's tomorrow, they could find themselves further adrift of the top six but Myhill is only concerned about claiming three points. He said: "You want to play in games that are crucial and this is what they are at this stage of the season – that's great, it's what you live for as a player."

"Other teams' results will play a big part in what we're trying to do, but first and foremost we'll just try and win our game – until you're in a situation where mathematically the other results are paramount to what you want to achieve, it's neither here nor there. We just need to make sure that we're doing as well as we can in training, take it into the game on Sunday and try and get three points."

Similarly, Cardiff have paid the price for a poor run which has seen them win once in seven games. They had appeared to be heading for victory in midweek against Coventry but their struggling visitors pulled back a late equaliser for the south Wales club's second consecutive draw

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Daily Echo

Non-league Action

Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division: **AFC Totton 1 Leamington 1**

STAGS FAIL TO SPARK

Fourth home draw in five games dents title chances

AFC TOTTON'S title bid stalled again as they were held to their fourth home draw out of five Evo-Stik Premier Division games by Leamington this afternoon.

The Stags flew out of the blocks to lead on two minutes, but were pegged back by a 57th minute leveller as the match ended all square 1-1.

Stags boss Stuart Ritchie recalled Jono Davies to the starting line-up and once again partnered Stefan Brown up front with Ryan Moss, leaving Nathaniel Sherborne on the bench.

The home side couldn't have asked for a better start on a glorious March afternoon, taking the lead on just two minutes.

Mike Gosney was at the heart of it, played in by Ryan Hill on the right and standing a cross up to the back post where RYAN MOSS nodded it over the line.

Leamington hit back with some good link-up play between their front two of David Kolodynski and the towering Jacob Blyth, who looked set to keep Ross Bottomley and Jamie Whisken well occupied.

That began a spell of dominance by the visitors, who were winning the midfield battle with Totton struggling to get quality delivery to their attackers.

Things picked up for the Stags around the 20-minute mark when Gosney played in Moss, who forced a corner.

Gosney's flag kick from the right was headed out by Liam Daly, giving Totton another corner on the left.

Gosney this time found Moss, but he was leaning back as he headed the ball and sent it over the bar.

Leamington were playing some neat passing football and it needed some brave defending by Totton to keep out Blyth following an excellent Craig Owen cross.

Totton then had a major penalty appeal for hand-ball turned down



CLOSE RANGE: Ryan Moss, right, heads Totton ahead.

Daily Echo picture by Paul Collins Order no: 14122224

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

when the ball struck Leamington skipper Jamie Hood as he tried to control it after Hill's fiercely struck free kick had caused havoc in the visitors' area.

Totton kept battling and, on 31 minutes, Brown played in skipper Carl Pettefer who forced keeper Nathan Vaughan to block with his legs at the near post.

On 36 minutes hand-ball by Pettefer presented the visitors with a decent opportunity 20 yards out, but Alex Taylor got his free kick all

wrong, much to the amusement of a baying home crowd.

Referee Ben Wright, who had infuriated Stags fans with some of his decisions, hit a new high just before half-time when he failed to award a corner as keeper Vaughan scrambled to clear Brown's cheeky low shot at his near post.

The official was then jeered sarcastically for penalising Hood for pushing Moss in the back, but Gosney's free kick went well over.

Half-time: AFC Totton 1 Leamington 0

Ritchie stuck with his tactics of deploying Gosney on the right and Davies on the left at the start of the

second half and it very nearly paid off on 49 minutes.

Gosney found his fellow wide-man with a cross-field pass and Davies ran on and whipped a great shot across goal which flew narrowly wide of the back post.

Two minutes later more good work on the left, this time from Brown, earned Totton a corner.

Gosney lifted a measured delivery into the area and Brown's looping header was cleared off the line by James Mace.

On 55 minutes Totton defender Ian Richardson was booked for taking out Taylor by the touchline and the referee further infuriated the crowd by not insisting that Taylor left the field after treatment.

Straight from the restart Leamington played the ball out to the left and rocked Totton with a blistering 25-yard strike by LEE CHILTON which whistled past Bittner and into the far corner to make it 1-1.

Davies responded with a couple of half-chances – one into the side-netting and one well wide.

Gosney then had a bullet-like free kick from the right touchline punched away by Vaughan, but it was a game that could have gone either way.

Bittner had to be on his guard as Chilton tested him with a low shot and then Bottomley managed to block another pile-driver from the Leamington goal-scorer following Blyth's knock-down.

Leamington continued to pose problems for the Totton defence but Bottomley and Bittner stood tall in their resistance.

With ten minutes to go Ritchie made a double substitution, replacing Davies and Brown with Nathan Jack and Sherborne.

The switch almost paid off on 80 minutes when Jack's low cross from the right fell to Gosney, who forced a solid save from Vaughan.

Jack then played in Nathan Campbell, but the midfielder dragged his shot well wide.

With time running out, Leamington's Owen crashed a shot off the advertising boards just past Bittner's right-hand post.

Then Gosney forced a corner at the other end and Bottomley just failed to connect with his in-swinging delivery at the far post.

Referee Wright's controversial decisions continued right to the end with the official somehow deciding that keeper Vaughan warranted a free kick when he missed Hill's looping high ball and caught Gosney with his foot as he landed.

Spitfires humbled

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH
Boreham Wood 6 Eastleigh 1
EASTLEIGH suffered a comprehensive defeat as they went down 6-1 against Boreham Wood.

The damage was done when the home team scored three goals in eight second-half minutes.

Eastleigh's only change to the starting line-up from Tuesday saw Scott Rogers return with Ian Herring returned to the substitutes' bench.

They fell behind in the sixth minute when a corner from former Eastleigh favourite Graeme Montgomery was headed home by CALLUM REYNOLDS.

David Bryant also went close following a Montgomery cross and Riza's shot was saved by Eastleigh goalkeeper Jack Dovey.

A shot from Bradley Bubb stung the hands of goalkeeper Perkins, who also did well to push a Daryl McMahon shot round the post for a corner.

Montgomery and McMahon also had good chances for their respective teams but shot narrowly wide.

The Eastleigh defence also did well to block Riza when he looked set to pull the trigger.

Half-time: Boreham Wood 1 Eastleigh 0

Eastleigh made a disastrous start to the second half, conceding three quick goals.

Firstly DAVID BRYANT followed up after Riza's shot was cleared off the line.

Then MONTGOMERY closed down Andy Forbes and was able to win the ball and put himself clear before shooting home.

Tom Jordan was then adjudged to have fouled Bilfete and RIZA and converted the resulting penalty.

Eastleigh were then reduced to ten men when Scott Rogers received a second yellow card.

McMAHON reduced the arrears with a free kick that eluded everyone.

Boreham Wood came close to adding further goals but powerfully struck shots by GARRARD and COX completed the scoring.

Lyndhurst edge home

DREW SMITH SENIOR ONE
Lyndhurst 2 Comrades 1

AFTER much early pressure from Lyndhurst, Andy Longland was put through in a one-on-one with the opposing keeper, who made a fantastic save at the striker's feet. However, the ball ricocheted to WADE WILSON who tucked away the early chance.

After a quarter of an hour and much more pressure ANDY LONGLAND gave Lyndhurst a comfortable 2-0 lead.

With the Wednesday cup final in mind, chances weren't being taken and Comrades got a solitary goal five minutes before half-time.

In the second half Lyndhurst continued to press but despite many efforts couldn't add to the score.

All eyes now are upon the Southampton Senior League cup final between Lyndhurst and Cadnam on Wednesday at Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium (7.30pm ko).

BSB CONFERENCE SOUTH
Maidenhead United 0 Salisbury City 1

THE Whites battled for the three points against a Maidenhead United side who started today two places below them and fighting for survival.

Salisbury obtained a narrow 1-0 win but it could have been more as they dominated the first 70 minutes of play.

The suffered an early blow when Marvin Williams limped off after

Stu on the boil for Salisbury

nine minutes but four minutes later Charlie Griffin's well struck 30-yard free kick was just off target.

Maidenhead's first threat came on 19 minutes when Ashan Holgate and Martel Powell showed neat inter-play, with the latter's finish being blocked by the Salisbury defence.

The all important goal arrived on

20 minutes and was a well worked inventive move started by Ryan Brett whose cross to the near post saw Robbie Matthews dummy the ball and Stuart Sinclair sent in his finish off the post.

Further great play went unrewarded five minutes later when Brian Dutton, Sinclair and Dan Fitchett went unrewarded for some

controlled play.

On 32 minutes Brett unleashed a tremendous 25-yard volley but he was foiled by home keeper Billy Lumley.

In the second half Fitchett got to the right byline and squared the ball across the box where Sinclair could only miscue his effort wide.

On 69 minutes the home side

made the first of two telling substitutions. Alex Wall, their top scorer, joined the action and sent a drive just over the top and on 77 minutes Paul Semakula's daisy cutter whistled past the post.

As the home side strove for an equaliser a wall free kick was deflected by Mark Nisbet past the post and the Whites missed the chance of a late second goal when Charlie Lossasso screwed a reasonable chance wide just before the final whistle.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Page back in Town
SYDENHAMS One club Ringwood Town have re-signed goalkeeper Jon Page from Fawley AFC.

But four players – Dan Marks (pictured), Lukasz Labedski, Marco Zocchi and Brad Strickland – have left the Canotec Stadium to link up with former boss Wayne Lockey at his new charges Laverstock & Ford.

Ringwood last week hosted a successful 'sponsors' day' to thank those who have backed them and show that the club plays a major part in the development of the town's youth population, with ten per cent of all under-16s being club members.

Peter Alvis has been appointed Ringwood's new director of football. One of his key roles will be to ensure that the senior teams are managed as one squad.

Winch go for Goals
WINCHESTER City are inviting teams to take part in their inaugural football tournament to be staged at Goals Soccer Centre in Millbrook, Southampton, in May.

The Sydenhams Wessex Premier leaders welcome entries from youth teams of all ages and ability to take part in the five-a-side competition on Sunday, May 27. Entry is £25 per team and there will be trophies and prizes presented to the winners and star performers. The under-nine, ten and 12 competitions will run between 9am and 1pm and the under-14, 15 and 16 age-groups will take centre stage from 12.30pm to 5pm. To book, ring Bernie McCarthy on 07884 225611 or email her at Bernie.21@hotmail.com.

Turn to pages 34-35 for local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

May joins Horndean survival fight

FORMER New Milton Town co-manager Steve May has joined Sydenhams Premier Division strugglers Horndean as cover for first-choice goalkeeper Simon Howard.

The veteran former Havant & Waterlooville stopper began the season in joint charge of New Milton with Darran Atkins, but their stay proved short-lived after a poor run of results.

May then moved to Blackfield &

Langley as a player/goalkeeping coach and ended up in co-caretaker charge of the Watersiders while Louis Bell was unwell.

May subsequently left the club after sustaining a long-term injury, leaving Ashley Vickers in sole charge.

The 45-year-old has now opted to join Horndean's fight to retain their top-flight Wessex status.

Also new in at Five Heads Park is former Gosport Borough left-

back Simon Stone.

Third-to-bottom Horndean are still too close to the relegation zone for comfort after losing 2-0 at home to Romsey Town last Saturday.

Romsey's two-goal hero Ben White scored first from a free kick and was then given the freedom of the penalty area to strike again.

"We let in two soft goals, our final ball let us down and we failed to create clear chances," sighed Carter.

LEWIS IS WESSEX VETERAN AT 17

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

LEWIS Ross doesn't look like a naive 17-year-old – and he doesn't play like one either.

Despite his tender years, the Fawley AFC midfielder is something of a Wessex 'veteran' having clocked up more than 50 appearances over the last two seasons.

In club chairman Kevin Mitchell's eyes, Ross delivered one of his best ever performances in an Oilers shirt at Hamworthy United last Saturday.

The pity of it was that his efforts went unrewarded as injury-hit Fawley slipped to a 2-1 defeat.

But the performances of some of their young guns were a major source of encouragement for the Waterside outfit.

With full-backs Callum Earl and Peter Keating both injured, the Oilers gave a second-half run-out to promising 16-year-old right-back Martin Buckthorpe after centre-back Nick Lane had been forced off at half-time with a groin strain.

Fawley also handed a first ever start up front to Luke Chapman, who has been playing in the reserves all season.

"The average age of our team keeps going down – soon we'll be running a creche!" joked Mitchell.

"But one of our intentions is to use the club to bring young players through.

"We're out on a limb catchment-wise, so home-grown talent is what we're aiming for or attracting young players who are willing to come to us and develop."

Ross is a great example of what can be achieved, according to Mitchell.

"Lewis is a local lad from Hythe and a Brockenhurst College student," he explained.

"He must have played over 50 first-team games over two seasons, yet he's not long been 17. In fact he's still eligible for the under-18 youth team next year!

"The lad's quality.



"The average age of our team keeps going down – soon we'll be running a creche!"

PROSPECT: Fawley AFC's Lewis Ross, right, in action for college team Brockenhurst.

"He doesn't look 17 and I think a lot of people who've played against him would be surprised to know he's as young as he is.

"Lewis is a ball winner and he looks like a footballer.

"He was with Southampton in his early teens, but didn't get through to the next level.

"But he's a very promising prospect."

Mitchell expects Buckthorpe, too, to get more first-team chances in the months and years ahead.

"Martin's an Eastleigh lad who came to play for our reserves halfway through the season," he said.

"We brought him on at right-back in the second half at Hamworthy

and he did well. He looks promising. "He got his chance and that's what it's all about at Fawley – giving young players a chance."

Two goals by Luke Burbidge put Hamworthy in the clear last Saturday before Matt Vining grabbed one back for Fawley.

The Oilers were reduced to ten men late on when stand-in left-back Aaron Blaxall was shown a straight red for an alleged two-footed tackle having been booked just three minutes earlier.

"A second yellow would have done," said boss Colin Lane. "Showing Aaron a straight red was an horrendous decision. I saw what happened and I wouldn't stick up for a player if he'd gone in two-footed."

Fratton Park prospect happy to stay on at Poole



POOLE Town recruit Lewis Tallack would consider extending his loan spell to throw his weight behind the Dolphins' promotion push.

Portsmouth prospect Tallack has made a solid start to his Poole career, featuring in back-to-back wins over Taunton and Bridgwater after agreeing an initial one-month deal at Tatnam.

The Waterlooville-based 19-year-old, who can play as right-back or centre-half, signed a one-year professional contract at Fratton Park last summer but has yet to make a first-team appearance for the npower Championship strugglers.

He is keen to get experience of senior football with Poole and is not ruling out staying beyond a month as Tom Killick's men go in search of a Southern One South & West play-off place.

"My aim is to play as high a level as I can but enjoy it as well, that is the main thing," said Tallack.

"Hopefully, if things keep going as well as they have, I could get until the end of the season and see what happens from there.

"Hopefully, I can help Poole get into the play-offs and get through."

A Pompey player since the age of 14, Tallack played for Cherries in a pre-season friendly against Winchester City last July and also spent time on loan with Blue Square Bet South outfit Dorchester Town.

"I was at Dorchester for a couple of months and enjoyed my time there, but I didn't really get that much game time after that," he said.

"When the opportunity to come to Poole came up, I had to take it straight away.

"To start off with a 6-0 win (over Taunton) in my first game, I was happy with that!"

Poole boss Killick hopes Tallack can emulate out-going loanee Rhys Baggridge who has returned to Yeovil Town following the expiry of his fine spell at Tatnam.

"Lewis is all they said he would be – quick, athletic and decent on the ball. He looks like a professional footballer in the making," he said.

"If he makes half as much of an impact as Rhys did, it will be tremendous."

Poole strengthened their grip on the fourth and final play-off spot last Saturday with a 2-1 win at Bridgwater Town.

But it was no walk in the park for Killick's side who trailed to Kye Palmer's 64th-minute opener.

It was only after Bridgwater had had central defender Neil Peek sent off four minutes later that the Dolphins hit back for victory through Scott Joyce and Will Spetch.

Warning his team against any late-season slip-ups, Killick said: "I don't really want to be going into the last two or three games needing to pick up points (to get into the play-offs).

"If it goes to the wire, it will be more difficult."

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS

Non-league Football

ROMSEY TOWN'S UNSUNG HERO

Boss Mew hails White's work ethic



EFFECTIVE: Romsey Town's Ben White, left of picture, has impressed for the Sydenhams Premier club.

BEN White is living proof that you don't have to be an eye-catching footballer to be effective.

By Romsey boss Wayne Mew's admission, White did little to grab the attention during last Saturday's 2-0 win at Horndean.

Except, that is, to find the back of the net twice as Town got back to winning ways in the Sydenhams Premier Division, leaving them seventh in the table with 60 points.

After successive defeats at Christchurch and Fareham, Mew's men got their recovery under way when White scored directly from a first-half free-kick, expertly bending the ball round the wall and into the bottom corner.

Relegation-threatened Horndean then paid the price for not closing White down when he latched onto a bouncing ball in the area. Making the most of the time and space afforded him, he promptly volleyed into the far corner.

"If you watch Ben, he's not a player who stands out or catches

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

es the eye with his pace or skill, but he works hard behind the scenes," said Mew, below. "He did nothing eye-catching for 90 minutes on Saturday except put the ball in the net twice."

While White's secret strengths may be lost on other scouts and managers, Mew knows the player of old.

"I had Ben a few years ago at Winchester youth and then at Eastleigh reserves," he said.

"He was playing for Alton last year, but finished with them at the end of the season.

"He was talking about taking a year out of the game, but he came to us in pre-season and signed.

"Ben's a good lad and he grinds away all day long.

"We played him as a main striker alongside Ryan Long on Saturday because Simon De'Ath is still out with a calf problem."

Although Romsey's dream of a top-six finish has been dented of late, reaching 60 points is a major milestone for a club that finished 16th last season with 44.

With six games to go – starting at Hamworthy United today – they are hoping to reach the magical 70-mark.

"If we clear 70 points that will have been a really good season for us," said Mew.

"It's going to be difficult to get into the top six now because we've played more games than Christchurch and Downton above us – plus we've got some difficult games to come.

"We've still got to play Downton and Hamble at home. But we'll see the season through as best we can and see what we need for next season."

Moone shine

FORMER AFC Totton loanee Charlie Moone is doing his bit to fire Hampton & Richmond Borough to Blue Square Bet South safety.

Twenty-three-year-old Moone, who had a spell on loan at Totton from Woking during their Southern One South & West days of 2009/10, bagged a hat-trick in Hampton's recent 4-3 triumph over Truro City at the Beveree.

Non-league News

Jones milestone

NATHAN Jones has reached a significant landmark with Sydenhams Division One outfit Amesbury Town.

The striker recently made his 200th appearance for the Wiltshire club in their 3-2 home win over Tadley Calleva.

Jones, pictured below, made his club debut just short of his 16th birthday on August 13, 2005, as a substitute at Brading Town.

Amesbury, meanwhile, will have a new manager next season now that Ian Jones has decided to stand down.

The reins will be handed to UEFA B-qualified coach Jason Musselwhite, who has previously worked with Oxfordshire FA, Salisbury City, Andover, Portsmouth Ladies, Oxford City, Reading Academy, Stockbridge and, most recently, Andover Lions. He will be assisted by Mike Pollin.

"Ian Jones has done a great job since taking over from Nick Horner late in 2011 and will continue to be involved with the club," an Amesbury statement confirmed.



'Hawaii' at Grigg Lane

SYDENHAMS One outfit Brockenhurst are to stage a darts exhibition at their Grigg Lane home on Friday, April 20.

The star turn will be four-times world championship semi-finalist and Sky Sports commentator Wayne 'Hawaii 5-0-1' Mardle.

Entry is £5 in advance or £7 on the door. For advance tickets, contact Paul on 07837 587657 or Barrie on 07815 565101.

Fleet to Fleet move

SAM Knowles, last season's leading Sydenhams One scorer, is back with Fleet Spurs.

The highly-rated striker banged in 40 goals in just 35 Wessex appearances for the north Hampshire club last term before signing for higher league neighbours Fleet Town. But he has decided to return to his former club – much to the delight of Spurs manager Andy Hunt who had been chasing his signature for some time.

That also applies to central midfielder Jack Chambers, now back in the Kennels Lane fold after a spell with Sandhurst.

NON-LEAGUE PREVIEWS APPEAR EVERY FRIDAY IN THE DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Charles loan extended
AFC TOTTON striker Michael Charles, pictured below, has had his loan spell at Farnborough extended to a second month.

Joining him on loan at the Blue Square Bet South club is 17-year-old Portsmouth midfielder Jed Wallace, who made his name in the youth team at Farnborough two seasons ago and made a handful of first-team appearances under then manager Steve King.

Wallace signed for Portsmouth in August 2011 and has been a regular in the Academy set-up ever since. Also new in at the north Hampshire club is 23-year-old Bahamian international striker/winger Cameron Hepple.

Hepple's last club was Albanian Premier Division outfit KF Tirana for whom he played in this season's UEFA Europa League.



Fuseini mystery

ALI FUSEINI, who played one game for Eastleigh this season before mysteriously disappearing, has signed a contract for Blue Square Bet South rivals Bromley until the end of 2012/13.

Having featured for Eastleigh at Woking on December 3, Fuseini failed to show up for training the following week and was still missing for their next game at home to Thurrock.

The mystery was solved when a newspaper report in his home city of London revealed that the former Millwall man had been imprisoned for ten weeks for motoring offences.

Blackfield want help
BLACKFIELD & Langley are looking for someone to assist their under-18 manager with the team next season.

The Waterside club also need a secretary for the under-18 and under-16 youth teams.

If you can assist in any way, please contact Owen Lightfoot on 07950 673189 or email lindalightfoot@talk-talk.net.

Poole ruled out for season after brain scan

WEYMOUTH centre-backs Ben Gerring and Sam Poole were involved in a horrific mid-air collision away to Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division leaders Brackley Town last Saturday.

The shocking incident, which happened midway through the first-half of the Terras' 3-1 defeat, has led to Poole being ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing a brain scan.

Poole has been having migraines ever since and Terras boss Brendon King confirmed: "Although the scan showed no internal bleeding, the doctors

told him another blow on the head could prove fatal.

"They have advised him to have at least two months' rest from all exercise."

Gerring, pictured right, is also out for the time being after sustaining a deep cut just above his left eyelid.

King added: "In all my years involved in football, I have never known a team to lose both centre-backs in the same incident like that.

"It was a horrific clash of heads.

"Sam travelled home with the rest of us and had his cut glued when we got back, while Ben stayed in hospital in Banbury until 10pm.

"At first they thought Ben might require plastic surgery but, in the end, they felt stitches would do.

"After it happened, he was in and out of consciousness for a while.

"When you see things like that – and particularly what happened to Bolton Wanderers midfielder Fabrice Muamba – football quickly becomes insignificant."



TOTTON'S JACK OF ALL TRADES

Odam's all-round skills secure place in Stags first team at age of 16

AFC TOTTON'S up and coming striker Jack Odam is something of a sporting all rounder.

The 16-year-old Barton Peveril College student enjoys golf and cricket, used to play tennis for Hampshire and had county basketball trials.

He's no slouch on the running track either, having clocked 11.8 seconds for the 100 metres during his Mountbatten School days.

But when it came down to it, all young Odam ever really wanted to do was follow in the footsteps of his dad, former Lyndhurst, Nursling and BTC forward Paul, and bang in goals galore on the football field.

"I've always been a striker, the same as my dad," said the Lordshill-based youngster.

"I'd go along to football matches with him as a youngster and have a kick-about and stuff."

At the age of six Odam joined North Baddesley and two years later became part of the successful Oakwood youth set-up which eventually led him to AFC Totton.

Now in his second season at the Testwood Stadium, Odam has truly come of age this term.

He was top scorer in the Stags' magnificent FA Youth Cup run, netting nine goals in four games, including two against Eastleigh and the winner which knocked out Exeter City.

Those performances alerted the attention of first-team boss Stuart Ritchie, who handed him his debut at Havant & Waterlooville in the semi-final of the Hampshire FA

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Senior Cup ten days ago.

The young man wasn't overawed by the thought of facing a Conference South club – far from it.

He capped a mature performance by breaking the deadlock with a superb curling shot into the top corner, setting Totton on their way to a 2-1 upset and a date with Eastleigh at St Mary's on May 16.

It also earned him a place on Ritchie's first-team bench for last Saturday's Evo-Stik Southern Premier draw at home to Redditch.

Even at college level, Odam is far in advance of his age.

England Colleges

The first-year Barton Peveril student does not turn 17 until August but already has two caps for England Colleges under-19s.

Having made his debut against Australia, he was back playing for his country against Wales in Port Talbot earlier this month and made his mark by scoring twice in a 4-2 win.

"It's an under-19s squad so, being only 16, I'm the youngest player in it and I'm really happy to have that chance," said Odam who, along with mum, Sally, was a Saints season-ticket holder for seven years.

He played in a Saints development squad as a youngster, had trials at



SPORTING ALL-ROUNDER: AFC Totton's Jack Odam, left, in action for Barton Peveril College.

Reading for six weeks and has also attracted interest from AFC Bournemouth's youth ranks.

Asked to categorise himself as a striker, Odam said: "I'd like to think I've got a wide range of skills.

"I used to run for my school, so I'm quite quick, I'm good in the air

and I've got good feet as well, so I'm a bit of an all-rounder.

"I'd love to become a professional footballer but, if not, I've looked into joining the Police Force or becoming a sports journalist.

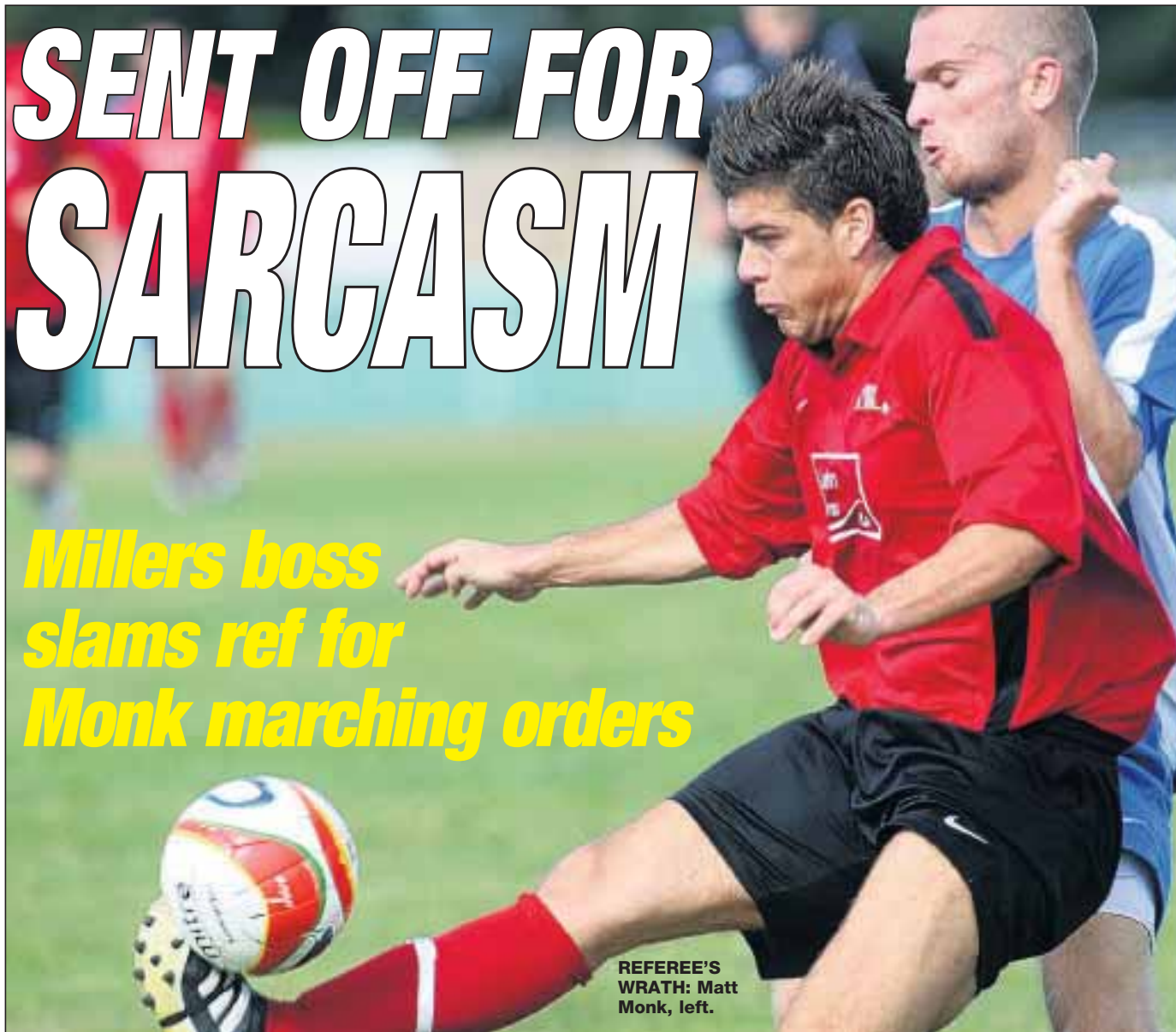
"An American scholarship is also an option."

EMAIL TEAM PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

SENT OFF FOR SARCASM

Millers boss slams ref for Monk marching orders



REFEREE'S WRATH: Matt Monk, left.

TOTTEN & Eling boss Kev Dawtry reckons referees should grow a thicker skin – after having Matt Monk sent off for sarcasm.

Monk had just been substituted in the Millers' 3-1 Friday night defeat by Moneyfields having fallen victim of what Dawtry described as "a nasty tackle which the referee did nothing about."

As the midfielder was leaving the pitch, he was booked for exchanging words with members of the Moneyfields bench.

Then he was promptly yellow-carded again for sarcastically thanking the referee for his handling of the incident.

"As Matt was coming off the pitch he had, shall we say, a conversation with their bench and got booked for it," said Dawtry, pictured.

"But if the referee had heard some of the things the Moneyfields bench were saying to him, he might have thought twice."

"Matt then said: 'well done, ref,

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

thanks for that' and got himself booked again.

"He didn't swear at the ref, he just said 'well done' and I really think referees need to get a thicker skin."

"If they took offence at everything said to them, we'd have no players left on the pitch!"

Dawtry felt it would have been helpful too if the Moneyfields bench had not inflamed the situation.

"I take no notice of opposition benches because you get some rubbish said at times."

"But Matt was fed up because he'd been the victim of a nasty challenge and they (the Moneyfields bench) didn't help with some of the things they were saying," he said.

"Fortunately for Matt, he'd managed to get out of the way of the challenge, otherwise he might have had a broken leg."



Downton's sock stars

DOWNTON'S players and officials are doing their bit to support Sport Relief 2012.

The Robins, flying high in the Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division, will donate 50p from all admission fees from today's game against Fareham Town to the popular Comic Relief/BBC Sport charity event.

Downton's players have already donned the official Sport Relief 2012 red socks to highlight the club's support of the charity.

They were due to hold a sport-themed raffle at today's game along with other fundraising draws and a bucket collection.

Club chairman Mark Smith said: "Sport Relief is a great charity and we're more than happy to support it in any

way we can."

Downton, promoted from Division One last season, are enjoying a memorable campaign back in the Wessex top flight.

"We're trying to establish ourselves as a top-six club," said manager Jeff Softley. "We're playing some attractive football and scoring plenty of goals."

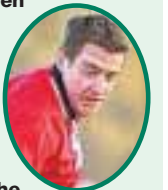
"We've got a great chance of securing our highest finish ever."

Downton maintained their top-six quest by edging Andy Leader's Lymington Town 1-0 at Southampton Road last Saturday.

The match was settled by Declan McGregor's 19th goal of the season and the Robins' 100th league and cup goal of a prolific campaign.

Non-league News

Downton KO holders
FIRST-HALF goals from Vince Rusher, pictured below, and Danny Finnigan clinched in-form Downton a 2-0 home win over holders Pewsey Vale in the quarter-finals of the Salisbury Hospital Cup. Goalkeeper Charles Aldridge made his seventh penalty save of the season to help the Robins to victory after Josh Thomas had been penalised for handball. It ensured Jeff Softley's men a fifth clean sheet in eight matches.



Downton, who have reached the final of the competition for the past three years, now travel to either Sydenhams Premier rivals Bemerton Heath Harlequins or Shrewton United in the semi-finals.

Adie hails Gajic show
BOSS Adie Arnold hailed the performance of match-winner Charlie Gajic after Verwood Town edged a step closer to promotion last Saturday. The Sydenhams One leaders secured a 1-0 home victory over Whitchurch United thanks to Gajic's second-minute strike.

The goal – Gajic's ninth of the season – had a touch of luck about it with his 25-yard hit going in via the crossbar and a deflection off the visiting keeper Tom Hindmarsh.

"Charlie was outstanding," smiled Arnold, below. "He led the side forward and it was a tremendous performance."

Whitchurch had their chances with Paul Coventry, sub Louis Macey and Dave

Asker all going close and manager Jim

Macey was encouraged by the performance.

"If Verwood are top of the league, then we are not far away," he said.

The result kept Verwood seven points clear of chasing Team Solent, who won 5-1 at US Portsmouth courtesy of Declan Edwards (3), Darren Wells and Scott Bonner.

● Paul Coventry scored a hat-trick as Whitchurch booked a ticket to the final of the Andover Open Cup in midweek, winning 5-2 against Hampshire League outfit Broughton.



WESSEX ROUND-UP APPEARS IN TUESDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Town end midweek jinx
TUESDAY night's win over Truro City was Basingstoke Town's first midweek success since the opening week of the season.

The game mirrored the victory over Bromley three days earlier.

Town led 2-0 at the break thanks to an own goal and Delano Sam-Yorke's, pictured below, strike, but they could have been further ahead as Jay Gasson hit the post and Robert Rice had an effort cleared off the line.

The game turned when a mistake by Gasson allowed Stewart Yetton to reduce the arrears for the Cornish visitors, but Town just about held on for a 2-1 win – their third Blue Square Bet South game unbeaten, lifting them to seventh spot.



"We're delighted to get the monkey off our backs in terms of winning in midweek," said Town boss Jason Bristow.

"That's two wins in a row and we need to go on a run now."

Town remain outsiders for the play-offs, but would appear to have a kind run-in with five of their last eight games against sides currently in the bottom six.

"You can look at it two ways because all the teams we are playing need points," said Bristow. "But you would certainly fancy us in a few of the games looking at the fixtures. "Every game will be tough though because the sides we play are either fighting to get promotion or avoid relegation. "We will take it game by game, but who knows where a run can take us?"

Nick's a Team player
MIDFIELDER Nick Howes has returned to Sydenhams One high-fliers Team Solent after three years away playing for Wimborne and Ringwood Town.

Leaving the Students are Tom Hoskins and Max Foreacre, who have signed for Wayne Harvey's Division One strugglers Hythe & Dibden. Harvey has also signed Seth Frampton, a former Brockenhurst midfielder, as he attempts to haul the Watersiders out of bottom spot.

MASTER MARKSMAN:
Jamie Slabber celebrates netting for Eastleigh



SLABBER PROVE

Chelmsford bid for looking

CHELMSFORD offer to get Jamie Slabber to the Melbourne

But already the 27-year-old has proved his value as a goalscorer.

Just hours after the match, Slabber took just one minute to get his name on the score sheet on Tuesday's priceless victory.

It put Chelmsford in a race after a dismal start to the season.

The 27-year-old, who when Cliff Akura was on the edge of the box, Slabber to head home.

"I thought he was a bit of a forward," said Chelmsford boss David Wicks. "We're delighted to get Jamie on board. "He's determined to score goals in him to help the team."

Based on his age and two years at the club, fans considered Slabber to spearhead a move, backed by a £10,000 term, Donald and Neil Ibbotson.

But it appears Slabber will leave.

Eastleigh knocked the offer because of the valuation of the player.

And even when the valuation was doubled, it was the Spitfires' ideal.

But, in the end, Slabber has no good keeping a

GLENN Burnett, manager of Sydenhams Wessex Premier outfit New Milton Town, has wished 19-year-old wideman Callum Davies all the best on his return to parent club AFC Totton.

Davies has been dual-registered with the Linnets for much of the campaign, but was recently recalled by the Stags and played the full 90 minutes of their Hampshire FA Senior Cup semi-final against Havant & Waterlooville.

Pitched in at left back, the youngster found himself up against vastly experienced former Portsmouth and

Davies leaves lasting impression on boss Burnett

Bournemouth midfielder Sammy Igoe and played his part in the Stags' excellent 2-1 victory at Westleigh Park.

"Callum has been a pleasure to work with and I hope he has a bright future ahead of him," said Burnett.

Another of the Linnets' dual-signed Totton youngsters, Scott Chester, will miss the remainder of the season due to an ankle operation.

But fresh in at Fawcetts Field are

Robert Lofters-Desport, signed from Blue Square Bet South side Havant & Waterlooville, and Breon Graham from Winchester City.

Ex-Wycombe Wanderers man Lofters-Desport scored on his debut last Saturday, but his effort was eclipsed by late goals from Dean Cole and Mike McEnery as Alresford Town escaped with a fortuitous 2-1 win.

Former Sholing forward Graham has had the door left open for him by Sydenhams Premier leaders

Winchester, but it was felt he needed some regular game time. Graham went on as a 70th-minute substitute for Lofters-Desport against Alresford, but it was an afternoon when Magpies goalkeeper Chris Waller saved virtually everything that was thrown at him.

The normally lethal Alex Baldacchino – playing his farewell game before joining Southern League outfit Poole Town – did everything but score.

Few would have bet against him finding the back of the net after Lofters-Desport's sliding tackle on Lofters-Desport had earned New Milton a penalty.

But Baldacchino had his spot kicked away by Waller and could only

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023

Non-league Football

R QUICK TO HIS WORTH

Chelmsford's 'double money' for Eastleigh striker already looking like good business

City had to double their bid for Slabber on board at Stadium this week.

The ex-Eastleigh marksman is due to the Essex promotion

After his move from the club, Slabber had gone through, it took 32 minutes to stamp his authority on his new club in a 2-1 win at Dorchester.

Slabber returned to the play-off stage after a run of four defeats in five

Slabber's big moment arrived when he held the ball up on the pitch before floating it in for a goal.

"It was fantastic tonight," said Slabber. Glenn Pennyfather after the match, delighted to have eventually

Slabber showed he's got the talent to help us into a play-off situa-

Slabber and his 36 goals in nearly 100 appearances for Silverlake, many Eastleigh fans will be the right man for the job. Slabber to be the right man for the job. Slabber to be the right man for the job.

Slabber himself wanted to be the right man for the job.

Slabber returned to Chelmsford's initial bid, but it fell way short of their target.

The Clarets came back and still "slightly below" what they wanted.

They recognised that it was an unsettled player around.

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"With Alex, it was going to go one of two ways on his last game for us," said Burnett.

"He missed more chances than he had all season - he even missed a penalty!

"We had enough chances to win two or three games."

Alton co-boss Tim Cole was honest enough to admit: "The way we played at New Milton, we would have been lucky to get a point, but we came away with three. But I'm not complaining!"

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

A club statement said: "Jamie made it clear that, if the offer was acceptable to Eastleigh, he was keen to talk to Chelmsford on the basis they are a big club and only 20 minutes from his home.

"While the offer is still slightly below our valuation, we are aware that, on a personal note for Jamie, it is an appealing move.

"Jamie has been a model professional during his time at the club and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service and wish him well for the future."

Slabber has much to thank Eastleigh and Baird for.

When the Spitfires signed him two summers ago, the injury-plagued former Spurs, Grays and Havant & Waterlooville frontman was, by Baird's admission, in the last-chance saloon.

His arrival was greeted with scepticism by some, but Slabber quickly won his critics over and proved Baird spot on with his judgement - just as he'd been when he gambled on signing Rocky Baptiste during his Havant & Waterlooville days.

"I didn't want to lose Jamie Slabber," Baird admitted. "But I asked him to tell me honestly what he wanted to do and he said that, if it was acceptable to the club, he'd like to go."

● Goalkeeper Conor Gough, who had a loan spell with Salisbury City earlier this season, has joined Chelmsford on loan from Charlton Athletic for the rest of the campaign.

● Callum Davies, left, in action for New Milton Town.



Hawks give Thomas a break



DAN Thomas, the goalkeeper who shone on loan at AFC Totton in January, has joined Blue Square Bet South strugglers Havant & Waterlooville on a permanent basis.

The 20-year-old impressed in four games for Totton at the start of the year before being called back by his parent club AFC Bournemouth to cover for injuries.

But Thomas, a product of the Dean Court youth set-up, has been let go by the Cherries because they feel he has more chance of getting regular football elsewhere.

Neil Moss, Bournemouth's goalkeeping coach, said: "He's a great lad to have around but, to be fair to him, he won't be pushing in front of Shwan Jalal and Darryl Flahavan for next year. There's no point keeping him and having him sit as third-choice keeper."

Thomas made four appearances for Bournemouth during the 2009/10 promotion campaign, but in recent seasons has been sent out on loan with non-League outfits Dorchester, Welling and Totton.

"It's disappointing (to release Thomas), but he needs to go off and play first-team games," Moss added. "We can't offer that to him at this time."

Cherries boss Lee Bradbury agreed: "It wasn't an easy decision, but I feel it was in his best interests. I wish Dan all the best for the future."

Also new in at Havant & Waterlooville is attacking midfielder/right winger Christian Nanetti.

The 20-year-old Italian, who hails from Bologna, featured in the AFC Wimbledon side that recently visited Westleigh Park for a friendly.

Nanetti started out in the QPR youth system from where he joined Scottish club Raith Rovers as an 18-year-old.

He had trials with Bradford City and Charlton Athletic and signed dual forms for both Lewes and AFC Wimbledon in October.

"Christian is a fantastic prospect and will give us a different dimension," said Havant boss Shaun Gale.

Despite the additions of Thomas and Nanetti, the Hawks still have work to do to preserve their Conference South status.

They lost 3-1 at second-placed Dartford on Saturday and drew 0-0 at fellow strugglers Bromley in midweek to leave them fourth to bottom of the table.

DAN THOMAS: Impressed during Totton loan spell.

Non-league News

Rowley in Blackfield switch

BLACKFIELD & Langley have signed Jake Rowley from Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Bournemouth Poppies.

Utility man Rowley, who has been dual-registered with Bashley this season, is one of a handful of players to have left the Poppies in the wake of their FA Vase quarter-final exit.

Along with Kane Daysh and Martin Warren, he was left out of the squad for the last-eight clash against West Auckland Town and subsequently released by manager Ken Vaughan following Daysh's criticism of his team selection.

Rowley, who can play up front or in midfield, made two starts and one substitute appearance for Bashley in the Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division and also featured in the Red Insure Cup.

Vaughan, right, meanwhile, is searching for new recruits to bolster his depleted Poppies squad following the departures of Daysh, Rowley, Warren and James Pinder.

The Bournemouth boss, who also has Southern League neighbours Wimborne Town sniffing around star duo Jon Blake and Wayne Crutcher, confirmed: "We are looking for players for next season, starting now."

"I have got a few decent targets, but I won't reveal them. Our intention is to build for next year."

One new face to have already made his mark for Poppies is 17-year-old rookie Jonathan Watt.

Plucked out of Dorset Premier League football, he scored twice in Tuesday's 3-1 win over Alresford Town.

After Mike McNery had fired Alresford ahead, Watt replied with a far-post header.

Max Cream made it 2-1 and young Watt put the icing on the cake with a smart turn and finish 12 minutes from time.

"When I scored the first goal, I was going to celebrate, but I didn't know what to do - it shocked me!" smiled Watt.

"It felt great. I raised my game in the second half and, luckily, I got the two goals."

Poppies boss Vaughan said: "He just went for it. I was really proud of him. I'm not sure he could have bettered that as a home debut."



Premiership Spotlight



SOUTHAMPTON-BASED UNITED FANS ENJOY LIFE ON THE ROAD



Murray stands down as Eastleigh chairman

PAUL Murray has resigned as chairman of Eastleigh Football Club with immediate effect.

In a statement released yesterday, Murray, pictured above, said: "I recently sold my shares in Eastleigh Football Club when the directors of Bridle Insurance were acquiring a majority stake-holding in the club.

"I also stood down as chairman at that time to assume the role of non-executive chairman. However, I feel that it is now time for me to move on.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with Eastleigh Football Club over many years. I lived in Eastleigh as a teenager, I went to college in Eastleigh, I have worked in Eastleigh for 46 years and still work here.

"I have a great affinity for the town and have therefore been pleased to be of service to the local football club.

"I wish everybody at the club well. The club is in good hands with Stewart (Donald) and Neil (Fox). They are young, dynamic, visionary, well funded and have a good knowledge of the game. I will watch with interest the progress the club will make under their leadership."

A statement from the Eastleigh board said: "We would like to thank Paul for all his hard work and commitment. He has been a superb ambassador and worked tirelessly over the years for the good of the club. He leaves us in good shape to move forward both on and off the pitch."

MEMORIES of the 1970s will be rekindled when a group of south coast based Manchester United fans make a 40th anniversary trip to Old Trafford next month.

The first branch of the MUFC Supporters Club in Southampton was established in 1972.

That was after some fans started talking on a Saints supporters coach en route to Old Trafford for a game in the old First Division.

From that unlikely beginning, branch secretary Mickey Thomas organised coach or minibus trips to most games in England and to some abroad.

"We did on average about 24,000 miles a season," recalled Thomas. "Some trips to London only cost around £2 and trips to Old Trafford cost around £3.

"We had members coming from Weymouth and Sussex and taking two days off work to see the likes of Macari, McIlroy and Buchan.

"This was at a time when there was no sign of league medals or European Cups.

"There was only the occasional FA Cup and third or sixth place in the old First Division to cherish and whet the appetite.

Wonderful days

"Six am starts and midnight returns were the norm, but by God they were wonderful days and nights.

"With this in mind, and before our Zimmer frames wear out, we are planning a reunion for the early recruits who set out 40 years ago in their youth to see their heroes play at many old ramshackle grounds and on trips that showed no signs of glory seeking."

Thomas is organising a trip to Old Trafford on April 15 for United's league game against Aston Villa.

"We will be going via the old route through Andover, Ludgershall and stopping at Cricklade & Cheltenham for eats and drinks before hitting the M5 and then Mecca," explained Thomas.

"So to ANYONE who I haven't been able to contact and who remembers catching the bus in the 70s and would like to make the trip again, for possibly their last time"

Thomas can be contacted on 07779 031060 or 023 8073 6367.

"It promises to be a truly memorable day of bliss for you and any members of your long suffering family," he added.

Thomas recently found a briefcase full of details of games the Soton branch of the MUFC attended back in the 1970s.

"Our first ever trip to Old Trafford in 1972 showed we went by minibus which we hired for £5.50," he said.

"We paid a driver £8.50 and the



FLASHBACK: Jimi Thomas, below right, with United boss Tommy Docherty on a 70s night out in Manchester.



FLASHBACK: Rangers fan 'Boydie' with Les Edwards, Mike Churcher, Mick Martin, Jim Holland, Mick Thomas outside the Vauxhall Pub, Cheltenham, back in the 1970s.



FLASHBACK: Chris Keen with Sir Matt Busby at the old Skyways Hotel in Southampton.

petrol was only £8.94 - £22.94 in total!

"We soon progressed to coaches and when the FA 'asked' United to drop out of the First Division for a year, so we could give the second division clubs a lot of cash through the turnstiles, we duly obliged.

"For our first game, at Leyton Orient, we paid £35 for a coach and all our tickets.

"For each person the price was £9.50 total. One person couldn't get into a semi pro local ground for that now.

"In those days fans could meet up with players and share meals and/or drinks in the ground or at the motorway services.

"United's manager in the 70s, Tommy Docherty, was always willing to help fans meet the players.

"At Fulham's Craven Cottage I thought I'd lost my son - Jimi Thomas - prior to the game, but one of our lads pointed out Tommy had spotted Jimi and taken him onto the pitch with the players in their pre-match pitch inspection."

Thomas added: "Many long friendships developed among fans that still exist today up to 40 years on.

"I only hope those days brought pleasure to those who attended.

"Two lads, Wayne Mohr and Mick Short, saved up their school dinner money to pay to go on trips.

"And Kev Toole, from Gosport, joined us in 1974 and has hardly missed a home game since then.

"A lot of fans of high profile clubs - especially United - take stick for going to see their idols.

"But in those long off days we had to leave at 6am, in the coal miners strikes times (2pm kick-offs) and that meant 3am get out of beds for those travelling up from Weymouth, for example and not getting back until midnight.

"So it wasn't all cocktails and prawn sarnies, more like bacon, beans and chips at the cafe we stopped off at in Cricklade on the way up to games and then a lager in the Vauxhall Inn, Cheltenham."

SEND YOUR FANS STORIES TO: echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

CAUGHT ON CAMERA: Saints fans dress up as Sumo wrestlers at Millwall.



Saints fans dress (up) to impress..

THEY'VE gone from being the Incredibles to the Simpsons, and now Sumo wrestlers.

That's a selection of Saints fans who have enjoyed dressing up during what has turned out to be a remarkable few months.

Supporters Andy and Rob Shattock contacted the *Daily Echo* to say they were donning the Sumo outfits at Millwall last weekend in honour of Japanese striker Tadanari Lee.

"This isn't the first time we've made a substantial effort for a Saints game this season," they wrote.

"We've transformed into The Incredibles and The Simpsons in our previous efforts - but have yet to have any recognition in the media!"

That has now changed. Along with some friends,

they donned Incredibles outfits for the first game of the 2011/12 season at home to Leeds last August.

The Simpsons costumes were worn for the 3-0 win at Nottingham Forest.

"I don't have any decent photos of the Simpsons day - all are far too inappropriate for the media," Rob stated.

The top picture on this page was taken by *Echo* photographer Matt Watson at Millwall, while the other picture of the Sumo wrestlers was submitted by Rob.

"I'm afraid we made a pathetic effort with the camera, and this is the only photo of all of us at the ground," he said.

"We were too busy going mental after Rickie's hat-trick!"

Have you got any dressing up plans for forthcoming Saints games? Let us know at echosport@dailyecho.co.uk



Administration should mean relegation - Gus

GUS Poyet wants clubs that go into administration to be relegated.

He has no axe to grind with clubs like south coast rivals Portsmouth but the Albion chief insists a points deduction is not a big enough punishment.

Pompey recently went into administration for the second time in as many years and were deducted ten points as a result.

Port Vale, managed by former Albion boss Micky Adams, have gone into administration since, as have Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers.

Poyet said: "I would be more severe with any club, because it is people that right or wrong are cheating the competition.

"They try to spend what they don't have to see if they can get up and if they don't they go into administration.

"It shouldn't be like that. For me categorically I would like the teams that get into that down, not ten points, down.

"Then we will see how the teams are going to react and who is going to take responsibility.

"That is the other point. Somebody needs to be responsible, because it is too easy.

"I spend what I don't have then if I don't make it take points (deduction). Who pays? The people working at the club, the players, the manager.

"I never see any chairman or anyone paying for a team going into administration. I would like that, because I'm responsible when we lose.

"I would like someone to take responsibility when they go into that situation.

"I would go severe so that the game becomes a little bit fairer. We all play with the cards on the table, no-one trying to go to another level spending money you don't have.

"It is fair with the rest of the teams then who are trying to play fair with the money they've got."

Ports-mouth's financial backer Vladimir Antonov passed the Football League's owners and directors test, formerly known as the 'fit and proper person's test'. The Russian's

Lithuania-based bank was subsequently placed into administration and he was accused of asset-stripping.

Poyet, although not referring specifically to Portsmouth's case, believes stringent controls should be in place to make clubs and their owners more accountable for their spending.

He said: "Somebody needs to control the money you've got, the money you spend and if you don't achieve that you get punished more severely and then there is responsibility.

"If somebody wants to put money in from their pocket to buy Messi, they cannot then ask for that money back from a club that doesn't have the money and would never have it.

"I don't think it is that complicated but there needs to be more control, because there is no control. Clubs are going into administration too easily now-days and it shouldn't happen."

Poyet, in spite of his hard line approach, has sympathy for Portsmouth, particularly for club staff working behind the scenes.

He said: "I wouldn't like to be in their (Portsmouth's) position. I was in administration at Leeds and it's awful, terrible. The way I am as a person I try to connect with people, even at the offices.

"You start seeing people losing their jobs quickly, one after the other. If I remember rightly, 50 per cent of the people working at Leeds at that time lost their jobs and it's not nice. On top of that they take points from you, the players don't get paid every now and then and you keep losing players.

"You need a miracle really. "It's true that sometimes it makes you stronger but only sometimes."



GUS POYET

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The money runners raise is a vital contribution to the vulnerable in our communities

LIFE IS MILES BETTER, THANKS

A GROUP for elderly blind people is giving a big cheer to everyone running in this weekend's Sport Relief Mile.

The Totton and Waterside Club for the Blind hosts get-togethers every month and says the £1,000 grant it received from the charity has helped "keep our heads above water".

The club has forty members and the money went towards the minibus that picks them up to attend meetings at the Totton and Eling Community Centre.

Organiser Beryl Hatchley is urging runners to get involved for the sake of all the clubs that are helped by Sport Relief in Hampshire, across the UK and in the world's poorest countries.

By Arron Hendy

arron.hendy@dailyecho.co.uk

"If only I could run I would do it," she said.

"It's great that people are getting involved for all the groups which benefit.

"I've seen how important these groups are."

The efforts of fundraisers who will walk and run the mile this Sunday will go towards grants, including the £50,000 that the *Daily Echo* is helping to distribute to groups like Beryl's. Their meetings include movement to music, bingo, information days with police and advice on keeping warm in winter.

"The money has



WORTHWHILE EFFORT: The people who take part in the Sport Relief Mile make a real difference.

more or less helped keep our heads above water," Beryl said. "We've been able to continue without putting the fees up."

Beryl said many members do not get out apart from attending the meetings.

She said: "It's about keeping them active and involved. You become very isolated when you are elderly, living alone and you can't see

very well."

Club members' ages range from 70 to 97.

Vera Culley, 88, said she looks forward to the monthly meetings.

Vera, from Totton,

said: "It means a lot to me and everybody else there.

"We all enjoy it and get the chance to have a good old talk."

The club meets on the second Sunday of the month, for more information call Beryl on 02380 782742.

See Monday's Daily Echo for pictures of this weekend's Sport Relief Mile

SO GRATEFUL: Beryl Hatchley, right, with Vera Culley.

Echo picture by Paul Collins. Order no: 14099627

Not too late to get involved

THE Southampton Sport relief Mile on Sunday leaves from Guildhall Square with fundraisers free to complete one, three or six miles.

Also taking part will be Radio One presenter Scott Mills, pictured, and record breaking sailor Dee Caffari.



You can also come up with your own mile at your own location or arrange your own fundraising idea.

For more information go to sportrelief.com.

● To see the launch of Sport Relief log on to: dailyecho.co.uk

WATCH ONLINE dailyecho.co.uk

Daily Echo VIDEO NEWS

Good sports spread word

YOUNG footballers showed their support for Sport Relief.

Year seven boys from the Wildern School, pictured, were at their local Sainsbury's store at Hedge End to publicise the run to shoppers. The supermarket chain is sponsoring the Sport Relief mile.

Today at Shirley Infant School children are running relays and at Ichen College students have organised a one-mile run in fancy dress.

On Sunday Southampton is hosting one of the flagship miles being held across the country and fundraisers across Hampshire are organising their own events and using their own ideas to raise cash.

Echo picture by Chris Moorhouse. Order no: 14112294



West Ham move 'bad for fans'

WEST Ham's bid to move to the Olympic Stadium is a "slap in the face" for their fans and their history, Leyton Orient chairman Barry Hearn claims.

The Hammers yesterday lodged a bid to lease the Olympic Stadium for 99 years after their original bid to move to the London 2012 showpiece collapsed last year following a number of complaints.

Leyton Orient originally bid for the stadium but withdrew their candidacy yesterday, with Hearn arguing the arena, which will be converted to a 60,000-seater ground following the Olympics, is not fit for football, mainly due to the running track which organisers say must remain.

The Hammers are confident they will be able to fill the stadium regularly and create a vibrant atmosphere to match the one they currently have at Upton Park, but Hearn thinks otherwise.

"This represents a quantum change in the experience of a football punter and frankly it could be the demise of West Ham if they move there," Hearn said. "It's a huge slap in the face to their fans and their history."

"The stadium is a magnificent athletics stadium, a magnificent building. It's just not built for football."

"It is designed for athletics."

Football grounds have steep stands but this one doesn't. The view from the lower tier is dreadful."

West Ham, currently third in the npower Championship, insist they will only move to Stratford if the stadium is converted in to a "world-class" ground after the Games.

The club's board are confident they have the ability to make the move financially viable due to their business acumen – even if the club are not promoted to the Barclays Premier League this season.

Their commitment to keep the running track has ensured they received the support of UK Athletics, with London having been awarded the 2017 World Athletics Championships

West Ham last night hit back at Hearn's claims, saying in a statement: "While others spend their time speculating on our plans we are focusing only on the long-term prosperity of our great club and how we can take it to the next level for the benefit of our loyal and deserving fans."



Swimming spotlight +++ Swimming spotlight SENIOR DUO SHINE



IMPRESSING: From left – Jeremy Osbourne, Indiana Shanker and Oliver Hughes.

TWO of the City of Southampton swimming club's seniors impressed during the final round of the Hampshire Championships.

Jeremy Osbourne, 25, currently a 'Clearance Diver' in the Royal Navy, won the 50m Free (25.01) 100m Free (53.99) and 200m free (2:00.79) in the 19 years and over Category.

Chris Osman, 27, grabbed silver in the 50m free, just 5/100th of second behind Osbourne.

Osbourne, who was a county record holder numerous times over during his youth in his native Guernsey, has only been with City of Southampton since last December.



FREDDY CLAMPETT

But he has fully bought into head coach Dave Terry's philosophy and is now training full-time at The

Quays while working in Portsmouth and living in barracks.

Each week Osbourne undergoes ten two-hour training sessions in Southampton with Terry.

And he will continue to do so as he works towards his dream of competing in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Indiana Shanker, 16, won the 200m individual medley and 100m backstroke, achieving his National Qualifying Time in both events.

He also had four personal bests.

Oliver Hughes, 15, narrowly missed out on his NQT for the 100m backstroke by 2/10ths of a second, though he still won the race and enjoyed eight other pbs.

Freddy Clampett, 13, also just

missed his NQT in both 200m and 400m individual medleys, and he picked up four other pbs.

Swimming as a Junior girl, Jessica Bishop, 13, won gold in the 100m butterfly with four pbs on the day.

Lots of pbs were also recorded by Jess Farmer (5) Amy Burt (6) Aislinn Murphy (4) Brooke Rumsey (4) Bas Burnell (3) Hannah Stevens (4).

Also swimming was 13-year-old Elizabeth Hopkins, who since March 3 had completed three whole weekends at the county championships and also two days of Olympic trials.

Other Gold medal winners: Hannah Stevens, 15, 50m and 100m breaststroke Sadie Fleetwood, 17, 400m Freestyle

Daily Echo



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BOX OFFICE

NEWMARKET Holidays

Swimming spotlight +++ Swimming spotlight

SOUTHAMPTON Dolphins are celebrating an improved showing at the county championships.

This year they had 17 swimmers qualifying in 95 events, compared to 10 swimmers qualifying in 48 events in 2011.

Kieran Beckett, for the second year running, was fastest boy in his age group at Boys 11 years 50m fly (35.57) followed by teammate Max Nugent (36.03).

Nugent was also fifth in the 50m freestyle (32.45) and sixth in the 200m BK (2.54.18).

He secured top 10 finishes in all his individual races to secure sixth overall in the 11 year boys BAGCAT competition. Beckett was 11th.

Tyler Ellis, 10, secured pbs in all his races despite recovering from a broken ankle in January. He epitomised the Dolphins spirit.

"The effort shown just to get to the competition was fantastic and to achieve pbs in all races shows great determination," said head coach Chris White.

Ellis came 12th in the 200m freestyle in 2.48.87 and 13th in the 50m Freestyle in 35.28.

Jenna Nugent, in her first ever county championship, swam pbs in all her races in the nine-year-old girls.

She was fifth in both the 50m and 200m BK in 44.78 and 3.23.25.

Nugent made the final of the 200m freestyle, coming eighth in 3.10.63, a four-second improvement from the heats.

Isabella Fraser-Corbridge, another debutante in the nine year girls, was third in the 50m fly (42.80) and fifth in the 50m breaststroke (52.29).

Jenna secured seventh in the nine year girls BAGCAT and Isabella 13th.

Rebecca Mills sliced nine seconds off her pb in the 10 year girls 200m BK, coming sixth in 3.02.40 – the first regional time recorded by a Dolphins swimmer.

Mills followed up her impressive backstroke with a fourth place in the 200m Fly in 3.33.17.

Rachel Hawkes and Ella Anderson also secured pbs in the 10 year girls age group.

Hawkes was sixth in the 50m Fly in 40.39 while Anderson came 12th in the 200m breaststroke in 3.45.23.

Emily Martin set a new Dolphins



WELL DONE: The Dolphins' 9-11yrs relay team (from left) Kieran Beckett, Billy Bye, Max Nugent, Tyler Ellis. Left – Jenna Nugent.

Dolphins lift their game at county event

record, qualifying for an impressive 11 events in the 11 year girls.

Martin swam nine personal bests with a fourth place in the 50m Fly (37.01), fifth in the 50m backstroke (37.42) and seventh in the 50m breaststroke (43.32).

Grace Reavey and Jodie Yates secured pbs in the 11 year girls.

Grace impressed in the breaststroke events, securing ninth place in the 200m (3.23.05) and 10th in the

50m and 100m with 43.88 and 1.36.43 respectively.

Jodie took five seconds off her 100m IM personal best to come 11th in 1.23.38 and 12th in the 50m Fly in 40.03.

Freya Wilks and Anna Reavey competed in the 13 year girls. Both girls have mid March birthdays so were the youngest swimmers in a strong age group.

This didn't stop them putting on

fantastic performance securing pbs in all their races.

Reavey impressed in the breaststroke events with seventh place in both the 50m and 200m with 40.21 and 3.07.04.

Wilks competed in the 400m freestyle, the first ever Dolphin swimmer to qualify for this event coming in 14th in 5.15.61.

She was also came 14th in the 200m IM and 50m fly in times of 2.46.32 and 35.54.

The relay events took place at Portsmouth and for some Dolphins this was the first time they had ever swum in a 50m pool.

The Dolphins entered five teams with the boys 9-11yrs team – Kieran Beckett, Max Nugent, Tyler Ellis and Billy Bye – reached the finals of both the medley and freestyle relay.

They came fifth in the 4 x 50m medley relay in 2.43.21 and seventh in the 4 x 50m freestyle in 2.19.97.

The 9-11yrs Girls team – Rachel Hawkes, Grace Reavey, Jodie Yates and Emily Martin – made the final of the 4 x 50m freestyle relay, coming seventh in 2.19.33 – just beating the boys' time!

Lin gets national time at 'Looville

REBECCA Lin provided the highlight for Winchester Penguins at the the Age Group event at Waterloooville.

During the first weekend of the championships, in which Lin was awarded third place overall in the 13-year-old BAGCats (British Age Group Categories), she was disappointed to be less than a second outside the national qualifying time for her main event – the 200m breaststroke.

Competing in the Youth Championships the following weekend, Lin was just 2/100ths of a second outside the time in the heats.

But after a thrilling final, in which she took bronze, Lin secured her place at the nationals in 2.48.21m.

Lin also took bronze in the 200m individual medley and bronze in the 100m breaststroke.

She was also part of the girls' junior 200m medley team with



SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT: Winchester Penguins in high spirits at the county championships.

Isabella Talbot, Freya Rhodes and Lucie Baines which won silver.

In the 14-year-old girls age group, Isabella Talbot won golds in the 100m and 200m backstroke.

Freya Rhodes won silver in the 50m freestyle and bronze in 100m freestyle and Sarah Hawkings won silver in the 50m breaststroke.

Georgina Elliott, 16, won gold in her age group for 200m backstroke and silver for 50m and 100m backstroke.

In the 17/18 years age group, Oliver Jeffcott took silver in 50m backstroke and Laura Fenwick bronze for 400m freestyle.

Adam Crompton, Nick Courtney, Sam Coward and Justin Craig all recorded regional qualifying times.

Successful Penguin BAGCat swimmers included 9-year-old Evie Johnson, the youngest competitor at the championships, who finished fourth overall in her age group.

Zoe Upcraft was sixth place and ten-year-old Eva Munden, despite being ill all week, competed in the 50m breaststroke and became age group champion in this event.

In the 10-year-old girls' age group, Abby Buchanan finished 5th and Alla Garside 6th.

Southampton Dolphins' county results ... Southampton Dolphins' county

9 Year Girls

Jenna Nugent
5th 50m BK 44.78
5th 200m BK 3.23.25
14th 50m FS 39.84
13th 100m IM 1.41.90
8th 200m FS 3.10.63
Isabella Fraser-Corbridge
7th 50m FS 38.14
8th 100m IM 1.37.58
6th 50m BRST 52.29
3rd 50m BF 42.80
10 Year Girls
Becky Mills
4th 200m BF 3.33.17
9th 50m BF 41.62
6th 200m BK 3.02.40
Rachel Hawkes
17th 200m FS 2.55.19
11th 50m BK 40.88
6th 50m BF 40.39
12th 200m BK 3.08.56
12th 50m FS 35.51
Ella Anderson
20th 50m BK 43.26

12th 200m BRST 3.45.23
16th 200m BK 3.16.08
20th 50m FS 36.89
11 Year Girls
Emily Martin
13th 100m BK 1.24.65
16th 50m FS 34.21
13th 100m IM 1.24.21
7th 50m BRST 43.32
10th 200m BK 2.55.79
14th 200m IM 2.59.99
17th 100m FS 1.16.17
4th 50m BF 37.01
8th 200m BRST 3.22.53
5th 100m BRST 1.33.96
8th 50m BK 37.42
Jodie Yates
21st 50m BK 40.19
14th 100m BRST 1.41.91
17th 200m BRST 3.33.08
12th 50m BF 40.03
11th 100m IM 1.23.38
18th 50m FS 34.40
Grace Reavey
20th 50m FS 34.79

22nd 100m IM 1.28.35
10th 50m BRST 43.88
9th 200m BRST 3.23.05
10th 100m BRST 1.36.43
22nd 50m BK 40.56
Lucy Hodson
18th 200m FS 3.09.65
23rd 100m IM 1.28.97
12 Year Girls
Amy Thompson
14th 50m BRST 42.88
13 Year Girls
Freya Wilks
14th 400m FS 5.15.61
14th 200m IM 2.46.32
19th 50m BK 36.44
14th 50m BF 35.54
21st 100m FS 1.08.48
19th 200m FS 2.23.41
16th 100m IM 1.17.45
23rd 50m FS 31.56
Anna Reavey
7th 200m BRST 3.07.04
18th 100m IM 1.17.92
7th 50m BRST 40.21

21st 200m FS 2.26.55
20th 100m FS 1.08.20
18th 50m BK 36.38
10 Year Boys
Tyler Ellis
12th 200m FS 2.48.87
19th 50m BK 42.81
14th 200m BK 3.07.50
13th 50m FS 35.28
11 Year Boys
Kieran Beckett
17th 50m FS 36.42
19th 100m IM 1.35.44
11th 200m BK 3.11.04
1st 50m BF 35.57
11th 50m BK 41.55
13th 200m FS 2.46.28
Max Nugent
10th 200m FS 2.41.81
8th 50m BK 36.67
2nd 50m BF 36.03
7th 200m IM 3.02.80
6th 200m BK 2.54.18
8th 100m IM 1.25.55
5th 50m FS 32.45

Girls 9-11yrs 4X50m Freestyle Relay
Southampton Dolphins A (Rachel Hawkes, Grace Reavey, Jodie Yates, Emily Martin) 7th/30 2.19.33
Southampton Dolphins B (Lucy Hodson, Chloe Bungay, Rebecca Mills, Ella Anderson) 23rd/30 2.34.15
Southampton Dolphins C (Jenna Nugent, Neve Day, Olivia Reavey, Isabella Fraser-Corbridge) 26th/30 2.46.47
Girls 9-11yrs 4X50m Medley Relay
Southampton Dolphins B (Rachel Hawkes, Chloe Bungay, Rebecca Mills, Ella Anderson) 17th/30 2.58.03
Southampton Dolphins C (Jenna Nugent, Neve Day, Olivia Reavey, Isabella Fraser-Corbridge) 23rd/30 3.19.05

Girls 12-13yrs 4X50m Freestyle Relay
Southampton Dolphins (Briallen Taylor, Amy Thompson, Ruella Garland, Anna Reavey) 14th/27 2.12.41
Girls 12-13yrs 4X50m Medley Relay
Southampton Dolphins (Briallen Taylor, Amy Thompson, Ruella Garland, Anna Reavey) 16th/27 2.36.67
Boys 9-11yrs 4X50m Freestyle Relay
Southampton Dolphins (Max Nugent, Kieran Beckett, Tyler Ellis, Billy Bye) 7th/19 2.19.97
Boys 9-11yrs 4X50m Medley Relay
Southampton Dolphins (Max Nugent, Kieran Beckett, Tyler Ellis, Billy Bye) 5th/19 2.43.21

Email your swimming stories to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

SENIOR CUP FINAL MAKING HISTORY

Sun get second chance

VETERANS

THE Eastleigh RA Vets Supp Cup final will see last season's runners up Rising Sun Winchester getting another bite at the cherry, this time against Hythe Aztecs who knocked out Baddesley Park thanks to two Gary Day goals.

The Riser were pushed all the way by gallant Northend United as both teams led during, only for the game to finish all square at four each. Only one penalty was missed – Northend's last – allowing RS to seal victory.

Mark Green scored three with Paul Goodenough their other marksman.

In Vets League action, Sporting BTC were surprisingly held one each by BTC whilst former champs Nursling won 5-1 against Hants FA Vets winners Colden Common with Stacey Green netting four.

Leaders Questmap had a field day, inflicting a 9-1 mauling on Old Tauntoninas as Jon McKiernan scored four. Redlynch signed off with a 1-1 draw with Q K Soton and Sholing edged GE Aviation 2-1.

Albion Sports pulled off the shock of the day in the B Section as Kev Cole caused a commotion, scoring the only goal for Albion against Langley Tavern.

Hedge End Rangers and Bishop's Waltham shared ten goals with Kev Alden netting three for Rangers and Chris Evan and Mark Vidler a pair apiece for leaders Dynamo. Compton were 5-2 winners at Stoneham to seal survival.

In the C section, leaders Sporting BTC B thumped Redbridge OB 7-0 with Darren Gooch scoring four. The title is in their grasp but GE Aviation B are not giving in without a fight after winning 4-0 at Langley Manor B as Billy Kelly hit two. Royal Mail and Langley Tavern B hit four each.

TROPHYMAN CUP

TWO famous old New Forest teams with more than 180 years' history between them battle out this season's Trophyman Senior League Cup final.

Next Wednesday (March 28) at Eastleigh FC Silverlake Stadium (kick off 7:30) history will be made as two Senior 1 teams are the finalists first time, *writes ROD SUTHERLAND.*

Cadnam United will start favourites after knocking out Premier title winners Bush Hill in their semi and are also second in the division, five places above their opponents.

The Magpies will be aware that Lyndhurst have games in hand and have been in vastly improved form of late after a difficult start to the season which saw Cadnam win both League encounters 2-1 at Clayfields and 5-0 at Lyndhurst.

However, since the arrival of former Warren Social striker Andy Longland, who was suspended until recently, Lyndhurst have been a different kettle of fish and knocked out Thornhill HK in their semi-final.

Cadnam are the League's top scorers (83) with Liam Hanlon and Tom Glasspool free scoring.

Lyndhurst, on the other hand, have not lost in this competition. They won it in 2004 before leaving to join the Hampshire League from which they returned this season and are keen to keep their record and their hands on the trophy.

They have a good cup pedigree and can boast that they were Arsenal's first ever FA Cup opponents! They also won the Southampton Senior Cup in 2005.

For Cadnam this season is their first since returning to the Senior Leagues but they triumphed in the Ron Vallance Junior League Plate last season on their way to returning.

FOREST Town aim to grab second spot in the Premier in their bid to achieve promotion to the Hants Premier League. They did their quest no harm, winning 5-2 at London Airways including a hat-trick from Sean Parker.

Cutbush Ath and Bishopstoke WMC shared the



CADNAM UNITED: Back, left to right. Paul Burnet, Adam Jones, Lee Walsh, Greg Snelgrove, Daniel Gail, Josh House, Adam Mallett. Front, left to right. Liam Hanlon, Sam Payne, Tom Glasspool, Ben Hillman, Matty Storer, Matt Froukhians, Phillip Walsh.



LYNDHURST: Left to right, back: Tony Yates (joint manager) Ash Baddams, Andy Longland, Wade Wilson, Simon Parker, Tony Wilkinson, Andy Trodd, Dave Tyrrell, Dan Charret. Front: Kev Cutter (capt), Rob Gill, Shaun New, Mitch Stanhome, Liam Collymore, Mark McCrindle, Chris Astridge.

JUST as the previous week when both Vase semis finished 4-2, it was coincidental that both Trophy semis finished by exactly the same score-line – 4-2. Soton Energy triumphed 4-2 against Solent Saints, leading 1-0

All at sixes

JUNIOR LGE SEMI-FINALS

but then falling 2-1 behind as Nathan Church struck twice. Energy eventually won thanks to a Rich Bampton

double plus goals by Nick Kellaway and Alex Liburd. It will be an all Junior 1 affair in the Easter Monday final as

Energy's opposition will be Veracity Vipers, who defeated AFC Grains 4-2, Ben Kneller's hat-trick including a fabulous free kick and Danny Shrimpton completing their scoring. Jamie Blyth netted both Grains goals.

Forest still in promotion chase

SENIOR LEAGUES

spoils one each.

In Senior 1 the big three all won, with leaders Netley Central thumping Michelmersh & T Res 8-0 with Ricky Bull their hat-trick hero.

Tom Cummings struck twice as Thornhill HK avenged a cup

semi-final defeat by defeating Lyndhurst 3-1.

Liam Hanlon hit a double as Cadnam inflicted a 4-1 defeat on Hedge End Town. Hythe Aztecs remain in the top half following a 2-0 verdict over Durlay Res.

White Horse halted a recent run of bad form by defeating

Burrage 3-2 but needed keeper Phil McGann to save a penalty to secure the three-point haul in a game of three penalties, both teams scoring one each.

BTC Soton Res won 2-1 at Comrades Res in their battle to escape from the bottom two.

City stay in hunt

JUNIOR LEAGUES

ALL still to play for in Junior 1 as South City sneaked a 1-0 win against Park through Pawel Burdzy.

Wombles won 2-1 at Braishfield courtesy of Matt Tyler and Tom Marriner.

In Junior 2 Hedge End Rangers' title hopes took a bad turn as they were surprisingly beaten 3-2 at Questmap for whom Pat Goode struck twice. All will now rest on when leaders Q K face Rangers in a week's time. Hamble Utd eased their relegation worries with a 2-1 defeat of Inmar.

Junior 3 leaders Compton Res crashed 1-5 to emerging FC Wellington to blow the title race wide open.

Forest Tn Res scraped a 3-2 win at Capital while SDFA Junior A Cup winners

Riverside are gradually inching their way up the league as they play their games in hand on all their rivals.

A 4-0 win at Warsash Wasps did no harm Matt Austin grabbing a brace in the process.

Infinity Res thumped Easleigh rivals AFC Gordons 5-1 as Kiran Booluck hit a personal four.

Well done to Cricketers Eastleigh who edged relegation rivals Bricklayers 2-1.

West Totton lost ground in the Junior 4 race as they were held one each by fourth placed Chandler's Ford, opening the way for Harefield to remain top.

AFC Gulf Western were 5-0 winners against Cricketers Fair Oak and are gathering momentum for the final run-in. Brigadier Gerard striker Simon Hare notched a hat-trick in their 7-1 victory over Priory Rovers to virtually assure their survival.

Bitterne Park Hotel gained three vital points in their quest for the Junior 5 title by defeating London Airway Res 3-1 courtesy of Chris Elgar, Grant Griffiths and Nathan Richardson.

New Forest Res need four points from their remaining three games to secure the Junior 6 title after a 4-1 win against Mechanics was achieved as Gary Stoner nabbed a brace.

SG Sports kept the pressure on them with a hard fought 4-3 victory at local rivals Coxford Jets with Jimmy Greenough scoring two.

Amptill's Dan Davies hit two in their 2-0 defeat of Mich & Tims A. AFC Soton defeated AFC Station 2-0 and Sporting Wessex edged Burrage Village 2-1.

Full results round-up in Monday's Daily Echo

Non-league Football

Win takes Vienna four points clear

AFTER taking just three points from their opening six games, DIVISION TWO's form team Vienna Windows find themselves four points clear at the top after Stuart Marshall (2) and Ross Singleton gave them a vital 3-2 success against nearest rivals Creekmoor Lions.

Sam Cole (2) and Richard Williams netted for Tiegla Tiles but Lotus Press had the upper hand 5-3 thanks to Kyrone Fendley-Davis (2), Mark Rourke, Tom Mann and Josh Corbin.

Ollie Peckham and Scot MacFarlane looked to have earned Priory Quays a point in the **PREMIER LEAGUE** until Anthony Winders' last minute winner gave Branksome Con the verdict 3-2.

It was Winders' second of the game for the reigning champions whose other goal came from a Martin Warren penalty.

Normal service was restored for Shoulder of Mutton in **DIVISION ONE** when they gave Bournemouth Electric a 6-0 drubbing with goals from Jamie Moores, Peter Pritchard, Richie Sands, Sam Elliott, Sam Goodwin and Tom Hall.

Aaron Stacey had an impressive debut for New Star United, scoring seven in their 16-0 trouncing of Bluewood Athletic. Sam Lanahan plundered six with Jack Holland, Crispin Rigler and Luke Pidgley adding one each.

In the other Division One game, Hasan Yildirim netted for Tavla Spor but Parley Sports just got the better of them 2-1 with goals from Martin Newbery and Dave Lask.

Verwood SSC are a point behind **DIVISION THREE** leaders Queens Park Rovers Reserves with a game in hand after Stuart Davids scored all three goals to subdue Poole Wanderers 3-0.

Darren James, Matthew May, and Sam Clayton scored two apiece in Three Cross's 8-2 victory over Boscombe Celtic with Ray Stroud and Shane Chapman also on target while Johnny Haynes (2) and Keith Jackson gave Ferndown Locomotive a 3-1 success against Lawson Builders.

Ben Platt, Lee Pearson, and Danny Young netted for

Form team edge out closest rivals

■ HAYWARD SUNDAY

Specialist Lettings but the **DIVISION FOUR** pacesetters suffered their first league defeat when unbeaten promotion rivals Barton Wanderers shaded it 4-3 with goals from Tom Linbourne, Will Ireland, Shaun Waterman and Billy Hancock.

Ricky Wilson struck for second placed Shoulder of Mutton Reserves but Victoria Cross surprised them 2-1 with goals from Dean Bartlett and substitute Phil Dixon.

Third placed Corfe Mullen

United also experienced an unexpected 2-1 defeat when Boscombe Albion upended them with goals from Alex Davies and George Anderson.

DIVISION FIVE pacesetters AFC Ringwood need two points from their two remaining games to clinch the title after Robbie Corlett, Robert Stephenson and Sam Yeats gave them a vital 3-0 victory over championship rivals Hollies.

Peter Richmond-Cole (2) and Alistair Garard ensured a 3-1 success for second-placed AFC Stourvale against promotion

rivals Talbot Pub while Ruben Fernandes bagged a hat-trick in Magpies' 4-4 draw with Alderney Manor with the other goal coming from James Carter.

Sacha Navarro hit DH Britannia for six when **DIVISION SIX** high flyers Kings Arms Wallisdown bounced back from last week's shock defeat with a resounding 11-0 victory. Paul Conroy struck twice with Simon Mitchell, John Bastable and Darryl Baker adding one each.

Townsend Spartans remain just a point behind after spanking AFC Burton Reserves 6-0 courtesy of a Simon Walsh hat-trick and further goals from Parris Simpkins, Charlie Foreman and Andy Hardiman.

Newtown Rovers' **DIVISION SEVEN** title aspirations are all but extinguished after leaders Fiveways Rangers swept them aside 3-0 with goals from Steve Moore, Mark Hayes and Mike Excell.

Ensburry Park Rangers go second after walloping White Heather Hornets 7-0 through Lewis Waters, Jes Pathak, John Lane, Karl Iseshak and a Carl Fleet hat-trick while Richmond Park Rangers were 5-0 winners against Shamrock thanks to Tony Hannan-Bobe, Robert Pyle, Spencer Dale, Stuart Vaines and Russell Healy.

DIVISION EIGHT pacesetters Cranborne netted through Charlie Arnold but Mount take over in pole position after toppling them 3-1 courtesy of Duncan Moody, Tim Andrews and an own goal.

Bournemouth Borough are a point behind the leaders with a game in hand after getting the better of promotion rivals Kinson Con 5-3 thanks to Dan Bailey's hat-trick and further goals from Michael White and Ben Cooper.

Scott V recovered after last week's stumble with a 3-0 win over Tower Park through Tom Milne, Glenn Taylor and Khalid El-Qasabagli and they remain a point clear at the top of **DIVISION NINE**.

James Morris and second half substitute Gavin Horwood both nabbed hat-tricks when second placed Throop United tonked Boscombe Celtic Reserves 7-2 with the other goal coming from Adam Louka.

Leaders given a five-goal shock

■ HAYWARD SATURDAY

MARK PUDNEY and Paul Danvers struck for Richmond Park Con but the **DIVISION TWO** pacesetters crashed to a shock 5-2 defeat against Mply who netted through Matt Cox and Tom Flynn's four-goal blast.

Nearest rivals Queens Park Athletic and New Milton Linnets cancelled each other out in a 1-1 draw, with Mark McCarthy converting a penalty for Park and Daniel Wills replying for the Linnets.

With substitute Alex Mackenzie scoring the vital goal in Portcastrian's 1-0 win over Bosuns Chair, the **PREMIER DIVISION** now looks a two-horse race between Ports and leaders Bournemouth Manor.

Manor are six points ahead, having played two more games than Ports, after Luke Scrimshaw (2) and Mark Reilly gave them the edge 3-2 against Allendale who replied through Nick Johnson and Stuart Pomeroy.

Westover Bournemouth netted through Hamed Faal, Darren Greaves, and Wayne Nagy but Bournemouth Electric forced a 3-3 draw thanks to Mike Wynne, Leigh Phillips and a late equaliser from substitute Steve Blyth.

Sway netted through Ben Thomson (2), Lee Clark and Gareth Barnes but Hamworthy Recreation emerged 6-4 winners thanks to Luke Dawe (2), Tim Porter (2), Will Gage and Gary Vincent while tailenders Trinidad went down 2-0 in the basement battle Redlynch & Woodfalls United whose goals came from James Morrish and Ben Read.

Mudeford Men's Club need two points from their two remaining games to be crowned champions of **DIVISION ONE** after James Wright, Mike Kitson and Neal Spalding gave them the verdict 3-2 against Alderholt.

Nearest rivals FC Bournemouth made sure the leaders had to keep the champagne on ice when they just got the better of Ferndown Sports 2-1 with goals from Luke McCoy and Paul Conroy.

Bournemouth Electric hold top spot in **DIVISION THREE** on goal difference from Parley Sports A after their top of the table clash ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

Ben Harris and Luke Walker netted for third placed Bisterne Rangers but they also had to settle for a point when David Horgan and Mark Brading earned AFC Burton a creditable 2-2 draw.

James Ketley's hat-trick proved decisive for AFC Pennington when the **DIVISION FOUR** front runners got the better of Burley 5-3 with Nick Pegram and Ezekiel Rink adding one each.

Ferndown Sports Reserves go second on goal difference after Kevin Crabb scored both goals in their 2-2 draw with AFC Bransgore while BU Staff boosted their title hopes by hammering Milford 8-0. Ben Cooper and Tom Symons both notched hat-tricks for the M.A.Hart Hayward Cup winners with Paul Main and Ricky Barton adding one each.

Gary Cutler earned **DIVISION FIVE** champions Richmond Park Con Reserves a 1-1 draw in their final game of the season with Bransgore United who replied through Greg Jones.

Third placed Screw-It Carpentry also finished their campaign with a 1-1 draw when Robert Cole cancelled out Tim Spicer's strike for FC Bournemouth Reserves.

A & T Athletic completed their campaign on top of **DIVISION SIX** after Liam Holland (2) and Anthony Winders ensured a 3-0 victory over Lower Parkstone CFC while West Howe move up to third place on goal difference after tanning AFC Burton Reserves 4-0 through Aiden Goodenough (2), Dan Shearing, and an own goal.

Moore has to sit it out

BRENTFORD goalkeeper Simon Moore was looking to get one over neighbours Lee Bradbury and Shaun Cooper when his team played their A F C Bournemouth side on Tuesday. Moore, who hails from Lake near Shanklin, joined the Bees in 2009 after being recommended to them by ex-Cherries youth coach Dennis Cooper - Shaun's father.

At the time, Moore, who started out as a 16-year-old in the Wessex League with Brading, was facing an uncertain future having just been released by Farnborough.

But following a tip from fellow Island resident Dennis, who was

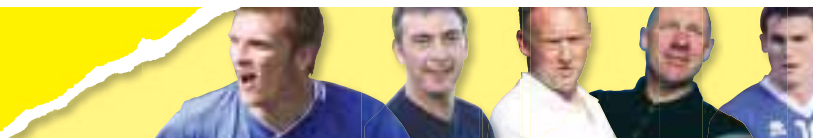


on the scouting staff at Griffin Park, former Bees boss Andy Scott gave him his chance in the big time.

"I have gone from number three to number two and am now fighting Richard Lee for the number one shirt. I have learned a lot and it has been a great experience," said Moore.

Moore had to sit it out on the bench as Lee kept the number one shirt on Tuesday as Brentford were beaten 1-0.

Non-league Football



HOW THEY STAND

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Premier Division

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Knighton Arms | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 1 | 21 |
| Brookhill Saints | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 32 | 14 | 21 |
| Totton Town | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 29 | 15 |
| Avenue | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 29 | 23 | 13 |
| City Central | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 36 | 32 | 10 |
| Bedes Lea 97 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 83 | 0 |

Senior Division

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Bursledon Towers | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 19 | 25 |
| Westwood OB | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 16 | 21 |
| K.R.L. | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 25 | 16 | 16 |
| Chamberlayne At | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 34 | 31 | 15 |
| Sholing Celtic | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 29 | 26 | 13 |
| Totton Cosmos | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 27 | 13 |
| Eastbrook Har | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 14 | 45 | 5 |

Junior 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Riverside Magic | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 67 | 10 | 33 |
| Linden Tree | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 64 | 15 | 30 |
| Winston Hotel | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 69 | 18 | 28 |
| Castle Inn | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 38 | 43 | 17 |
| Anchor Redbridge | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 47 | 16 |
| Echo | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 30 | 58 | 12 |
| Hedge End Club | 14 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 18 | 56 | 8 |
| Revolution | 13 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 84 | 5 |

Junior 2

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| F.C. Salt | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 46 | 23 | 35 |
| Athletico H.C. | 15 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 64 | 33 | 31 |
| Old House at H | 17 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 62 | 34 | 31 |
| Ice House N.H. | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 55 | 25 | 23 |
| Brookhill S Res | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 15 | 21 |
| F.C. Railway | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 55 | 36 | 20 |
| Sports Mania | 14 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 45 | 54 | 18 |
| Itchen Manor | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 37 | 44 | 16 |
| Carnival U.K. | 16 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 21 | 83 | 9 |
| Woodman | 16 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 27 | 103 | 3 |

Junior 3

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Cherbourg | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 56 | 26 | 29 |
| Chartwell Green | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 44 | 16 | 29 |
| Bridge A.F.C. | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 53 | 19 | 28 |
| A.F.C. Bursledon | 14 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 42 | 27 | 27 |
| Sherfield English | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 58 | 31 | 25 |
| AFC Riverside | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 31 | 34 | 15 |
| L.H. Galaxy | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 22 | 37 | 15 |
| Regents Park | 15 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 24 | 68 | 8 |
| Marchwood | 14 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 14 | 86 | 1 |

Junior 4

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Soton Bhoys | 14 | 10 | 0 | 4 | 39 | 15 | 30 |
| Woodmill | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 48 | 19 | 28 |
| Bishops Blaze | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 51 | 15 | 21 |
| C'layne Ath Res | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 35 | 45 | 21 |
| Newtown Athletic | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 15 | 19 |
| Eastpoint | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 26 | 35 | 18 |
| Royale Marine | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 21 | 26 | 9 |
| Burridge AFC | 12 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 13 | 44 | 3 |
| Obelisk | 12 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 15 | 69 | 3 |

Junior 5

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Sporting View | 13 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 61 | 17 | 34 |
| Sp Compass | 16 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 26 | 34 |
| Portsmouth Utd | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 54 | 41 | 29 |
| Sherfield Eng Res | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 57 | 46 | 25 |
| Durley | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 32 | 38 | 19 |
| A.V. Chivas | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 31 | 44 | 18 |
| Southern Stars | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 31 | 46 | 13 |
| Eastleigh Irish | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 32 | 80 | 11 |
| Bishopstoke | 14 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 36 | 38 | 7 |

Junior 6

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| AFC Soton | 16 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 79 | 25 | 46 |
| Hythe & Dib Sun | 15 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 57 | 35 | 36 |
| RS Ocean Vil | 13 | 10 | 0 | 3 | 57 | 24 | 30 |
| Ampfield | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 49 | 40 | 25 |
| Marchwood | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 39 | 55 | 14 |
| Botley Babes | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 37 | 60 | 14 |
| Unity | 14 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 32 | 60 | 12 |
| TV Spartans | 14 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 24 | 54 | 9 |
| Sp Compass Res | 15 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 30 | 51 | 7 |

THERE was an entertaining eight-goal tussle in Division 1 of the Southampton Sunday League.

Ben Bolton, Ben Murphy, Callum Turner and Connor Worsley scored for Lord Nelson as they let slip a 2-0 half-time lead to draw 4-4 at home to AFC Allbrook.

Dave Reading (2), Liam Godfrey and Luke Pilgrim

Allbrook fight back stuns Lord Nelson

gave Allbrook a point.

In Division 3 Holbury United won 4-2 at AFC Anchor with Lee James (2)

Darren Ayres and Mike Switzer on target. Terry Coupland and Johnny Richardson replied.

Craig Davis, Dean Higgins and an own goal gave AFC Toynbee a 3-0 victory at Fair Oak Albion.

The only game in Division 4 saw Coopervision beat Halfway United 3-0 with goals from Indi Coleman, Ben Cutler and Mike Kowalski.

Dale Davies (2), Dave Pumhoff, Roman Williams and Todd Windibank netted as Hoff Sports defeated King George 5-1. Chris Stamp replied.

Title-chasers hit a high five

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE

COMPILED BY RONNY POTNIAL

BREON Graham netted twice as Westwood Old Boys caned Chamberlayne Athletic 5-0 in the City of Southampton's Senior Division.

Further goals came from Shane Collins, Warren Attrill and Jack Bull.

KRL drew 2-2 at home to Totton Cosmos - Mickey Madair and Ben Cooper were on target for the hosts and Lee Wilkinson and Ashley Hower replied for Cosmos.

Lewis Middleton and Mo Berkau netted in the second half as Itchen Manor came from behind to win 2-1 at Sports Mania after Jon Allen had put the hosts ahead.

AFC Marchwood were led a merry dance in Junior Division 3 by AFC Riverside. That's because Andy Dance struck five times in a 7-0 romp, with Paul Allen also scoring twice.

A first half strike from Danny Longman helped Bridge A.F.C. beat L.H. Galaxy 1-0.

Chartwell Green and A.F.C. Bursledon played out a 2-2 draw with Gary Klepp netting twice for the hosts.

Chris Alden and Lew Tew replied for Bursledon.

A hat-trick from Ben Johnson and further goals



TAKE OFF: Breon Graham hit two for Westwood.

for Ian Hellard and Mathew Henriet helped Cherbourg triumph 5-1 at Regents Park. Sam Vidler grabbed a consolation goal in the second half.

In Junior Division 4, Marc Beston netted twice as Bishop Blaize were held 3-3 at home by Eastpoint. Ben Jacobs also netted with Darren Brown (2) and Dan Brunnen replying.

Goals from Mark Haines, Azeem Hamid and Jason Windibank helped Newtown win 3-1 at Burridge. Richard Bradley replied. Aaron

Looker grabbed a hat-trick as Southampton Bhoys romped to a 6-2 victory at Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves. Ben Boyce, Carl Squibb and Terry Fredericks also scored while Connor Burke and Liam Fielder (2) replied.

A goal in the second half from Steve Allen helped Woodmill Secure victory against Royale Marine.

In Junior 5, Eastleigh Irish came back from behind to beat A.V. Chivas 2-1 thanks to an Aiden Reed double. Jon Andrews replied. Sporting

Compass defeated A.F.C. Bishopstoke with a second half goal from Wayne Vincent.

Sporting View came out 4-2 winners over H.S.C. Southern Stars with Aaron Thompson (2), Craig Holloway and Jamie Feasey on target. Rage Hussain and Sneider Fonangwam replied.

The only game in Junior Division 6 saw A.F.C. Southampton win 4-0 at Hythe & Dibden Sunday.

The game was a personal triumph for Chris Easton, who netted all four goals.

Linden land a spot in Trophy finale

LINDEN Tree are through to the final of the City of Southampton's DR Ryder Trophy after a 3-2 win against Brookhill Saints Reserves.

Keiran Walsh, Matthew Camfield and an own goal gave them victory.

Roll Call came from behind to reach the last four of the Southampton & District Sunday League Cup.

They were 1-0 down at half-time at Otter, Mike Phillips on target, but hit back through Reece Evans and Peter Philpott.

Another tight game in the quarter-finals of the Junior Trophy saw C & G win 2-1 at Lapstone.

Dan Collinson and Ryan Gardiner scored for the winners with Liam Harris replying.

Ash, 16, qualifies to run men's matches

GROWING UP FAST

HE'S the boy in black – the teenager with ultimate power on the football field.

Ash Blakeley, 16, has qualified as a level 7 referee, meaning he can take control of men's matches in the local leagues.

Ash, from North Baddesley, said: "It doesn't matter how old you are. You have the whistle and you are in charge."

The Year 11 Mountbatten School pupil is used to being met with looks of surprise when he turns up to games.

"I was refereeing a match for the Saints Under-15s and my assistants were 19 and 20," he recalled.

"They looked a bit shocked when they saw me at first but at the end of the game they said I'd done a good job."

Although he can referee senior matches locally, Ash, pictured, will concentrate on youth games for the present.

He admits he experiences no trouble with dissent from players and says that often teenagers respect an official their own age more than someone older but perhaps less qualified.

Ash belongs to the Southampton Referees' Association, where he is the youngest committee member.

He would like to pursue his career with the whistle to the very top.

"When I was on a course recently the tutor asked 'Does any-

one want to follow in Howard Webb's footsteps?' and I was the only one who put their hand up!" said Ash.

He has not given up playing, however. Ash turns out in midfield for Mountbatten and has recently been called up to the Romsey Town Under-18s squad.

He admits his experience as the person in charge has altered his attitude when playing.

"I was always one of the loudest on the pitch but that's changed now."

Last year Ash organised a charity football match at Mountbatten School which raised £350 for Cancer Research UK.

This year he is arranging a game in aid of the Hampshire Air Ambulance.

He was inspired by the experiences of fellow pupils, Charlie and Ralph Sweetman, whose father, Carl, was killed in a tree-felling accident at Plaitford last year.

"They came back to school two days later and since then they have been role models for not only their own year but the rest of school," said Ash.

"We are looking to raise £500 for the air ambulance who tried so very hard to save their father."

The match kicks off at Mountbatten at 2.15pm on Saturday, March 31.



Ludlow win Chelsea FC competition



RUNNERS-UP: Springhill Primary.



WINNERS: Ludlow Junior School celebrate their victory.

LUDLOW Junior School won the Chelsea FC Foundation football tournament held at Bitterne Park.

They defeated Springhill Primary 1-0 in the final of an event which also featured teams from St Denys Primary, Bassett Green Primary, Beechwood Junior, Newlands Primary and Bitterne Manor Primary.

Everyone who took part in the tournament received a Chelsea FC Foundation certificate while the winners received medals and a trophy.

Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

Monday, March 26
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Man Utd v Fulham.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Hitchin v AFC Totton.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Eastleigh v Newport IoW.
Division One East: Winchester City v Alton Town.

Tuesday, March 27
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Quarter-final first leg: Apoel Nicosia v Real Madrid, Benfica v Chelsea.
FA CUP
Sixth round: Tottenham v Bolton.
Sixth round replay: Sunderland v Everton.
npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Crystal Palace v Doncaster, Ipswich v Leicester v Nottm Forest, Peterborough v West Ham, Portsmouth v Hull.
League One: Milton Keynes Dons v Carlisle, Oldham v Leyton Orient, Preston v Brentford, Stevenage v Bournemouth, Walsall v Colchester.

League Two: Accrington Stanley v Oxford Utd, Aldershot v Bristol Rovers, Bradford v Crawley Town, Burton Albion v Gillingham, Shrewsbury v Port Vale.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: AFC Telford v Forest Green, Bath City v York, Braintree Town v Southport, Darlington v Wrexham, Ebbsfleet United v Alfreton Town, Hayes & Yeading v Lincoln City, Tamworth v Grimsby.

South: Dover v Hampton & Richmond, Eastbourne Borough v Thurrock.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Barwell v Weymouth, Leamington v Swindon Supermarine, Oxford City v Bedford, St Albans City v Stourbridge.

Division One South & West: Yate v Paulton Rovers.

Red Insure Cup final, first leg: Clevedon v Banbury.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

Semi-final: GE Hamble v Bemerton HH.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Christchurch v Hayling, Horndean v Bournemouth Poppies, Moneyfields v Downton.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Division One: Colden Common v AFC Stoneham (6.00)

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Dorchester v Moneyfields

WCL Challenge Cup, quarter-finals: Gosport Borough v Bemerton HH, Hayling Utd v Verwood.

Wednesday, March 28

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-final first leg: AC Milan v Barcelona, Marseille v Bayern Munich.

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

League One: Sheff Utd v Chesterfield.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: New Milton v Lynton.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

WCL Challenge Cup, quarter-final: Lynton Town v Fawley.

Division One East: AFC Portchester v Whitchurch.

Thursday, March 29

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Quarter-final first leg: AZ v Valencia, Atletico Madrid v Hannover, Schalke 04 v Athletic Bilbao, Sporting v FC Metalist Kharkiv.

Friday, March 30

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Doncaster v Birmingham.

League Two: Barnet v Torquay, Southend v Cheltenham.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: Luton v York.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Dorchester v Fleet Town.

Saturday, March 31
(All FL matches 3pm ko unless stated otherwise)

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Chelsea, Everton v West Brom, Fulham v Norwich, Man City v Sunderland, QPR v Arsenal, Wigan v Stoke, Wolverhampton v Bolton.

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Blackpool v Southampton (5.25), Brighton v

Middlesbrough, Bristol City v Derby, Cardiff v Millwall (12.30), Crystal Palace v Nottm Forest, Hull v Coventry, Ipswich v Barnsley, Leeds v Watford, Peterborough v Leicester, Portsmouth v Burnley, West Ham v Reading.

League One: Bournemouth v Yeovil, Bury v Tranmere, Carlisle v Huddersfield, Charlton v Leyton Orient, Chesterfield v Scunthorpe, Exeter v Colchester, Hartlepool v Sheff Utd, Milton Keynes Dons v Brentford, Notts County v Oldham, Rochdale v Walsall, Sheff Wed v Preston (12.45), Stevenage v Wycombe.

League Two: Accrington Stanley v AFC Wimbledon, Burton Albion v Crawley Town, Crewe v Northampton, Gillingham v Macclesfield, Oxford Utd v Morecambe, Plymouth v Bradford, Port Vale v Dag & Red, Rotherham v Hereford, Shrewsbury v Aldershot, Swindon v Bristol Rovers.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: AFC Telford v Darlington, Bath City v Fleetwood Town, Braintree Town v Alfreton Town, Cambridge Utd v Wrexham, Forest Green v Barrow, Grimsby v Kidderminster, Kettering v Stockport, Lincoln City v Tamworth, Mansfield v Ebbsfleet United, Newport County v Gateshead, Southport v Hayes & Yeading.

South: Basingstoke v Havant & Waterlooville, Bromley v Weston-super-Mare, Dartford v Maidenhed, Dover v Boreham Wood, Eastleigh v Eastbourne Borough, Farnborough v Dorchester, Hampton & Richmond v Sutton, Salisbury v Welling, Staines v Truro, Tonbridge v Chelmsford, Woking v Thurrock.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Banbury v Farnham, Gillingham v Grimsby, Cambridge City v Cirencester, Chesham v AFC Totton, Chippenham v Oxford City, Evesham v Bedford, Hemel Hempstead v Swindon Supermarine, Hitchin v Redditch, Stourbridge v Brackley, Weymouth v Arlesey.

Division One South & West: Bidford v Paulton Rovers, Bridgewater v Halesowen, Cinderford v Taunton, Didcot v Tiverton, Hungerford v Gosport Borough, Mangotsfield v Bishops Cleeve, North Leigh v Wimborne, Poole v Yate, Sholing v Thatcham, Stourport Swifts v Abingdon Utd.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bournemouth Poppies v Newport IoW, Brading v Downton, Fareham v Christchurch, Fawley v Winchester City, GE Hamble v Alton, Horndean v Blackfield & Langley, Romsey v Laverstock & Ford, Totton & Eling v Bemerton HH.

Division One: AFC Portchester v Whitchurch, Amesbury v Petersfield, Andover NS v Warminster, Brockenhurst v Cowes Sports, Stockbridge v Fleet Spurs, Team Solent v East Cowes Vics, Verwood v Pewsey Vale.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Division One: Bournemouth Sports v QK Southampton, Hamble Club v Sporting BW, Hedge End Rangers v Paulsgrove, Liphook Utd v Fleetlands, Liss Athletic v Colden Common, Locks Heath v Winchester Castle, Overton v Clanfield.

Combination Division: AFC Aldermaston v Liphook, AFC Stoneham v Fleetlands, Otterbourne v Sporting BW, Overton v Clanfield, Paulsgrove v Hamble Club, QK Southampton v Locks Heath, Winchester Castle v Liss Athletic.

MAGNATA CARE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE 2004

Broughton v Horndean Utd, Crusaders v Mottisfont, Four Marks v Botley Village, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Fair Oak, Upham v Infinity, Andover Lions v Portsmouth RN.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Totton v Fleet Town, Bemerton HH v Dorchester, Gosport Borough v Poole Town, Moneyfields v Wimborne, Newport IoW v Sholing.

Division One East: Alton v AFC Portchester, Tadley Calvea v GE Hamble, Whitchurch v Alresford.

Division One West: Downton v Romsey, East Cowes Vics v Hythe & Dibden, Lynton Town v Brockenhurst, Ringwood v Laverstock & Ford.

Non-league Football



HAMPSHIRE SIXTH FORM COLLEGES LEAGUE STANDINGS

FIRST XI

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| Itchen | 15 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 71 | 15 | 42 |
| Sparsholt | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 45 | 12 | 33 |
| Brockenhurst | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 46 | 20 | 32 |
| Taunton's | 13 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 63 | 17 | 31 |
| Alton | 14 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 37 | 26 | 29 |
| Farnborough | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 49 | 27 | 26 |
| Poole | 14 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 37 | 27 | 22 |
| Totton | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 18 | 21 |
| Peter Symonds | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 34 | 27 | 17 |
| Queen Mary's | 14 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 31 | 33 | 17 |
| Barton Peveril | 15 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 37 | 63 | 15 |
| Bournemouth | 15 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 28 | 43 | 11 |
| Havant | 13 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 19 | 50 | 8 |
| Portsmouth | 13 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 55 | 7 |
| Basingstoke | 15 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 23 | 73 | 4 |
| South Downs | 13 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 17 | 67 | 4 |

SECOND XI

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|-----|----|-----|
| Itchen | 18 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 102 | 17 | 51 |
| Queen Mary's | 18 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 64 | 34 | 40 |
| Totton | 16 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 53 | 17 | 39 |
| Farnborough | 16 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 62 | 25 | 37 |
| Sparsholt | 18 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 46 | 21 | 35 |
| St Vincent | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 52 | 37 | 34 |
| Barton Peveril | 19 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 59 | 34 | 33 |
| Alton | 17 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 65 | 35 | 31 |
| Brockenhurst | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 49 | 28 | 29 |
| Taunton's | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 50 | 45 | 27 |
| Fareham | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 46 | 49 | 25 |
| Bay House | 17 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 40 | 32 | 24 |
| Bournemouth | 18 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 32 | 48 | 23 |
| Peter Symonds | 15 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 50 | 59 | 20 |
| Poole | 19 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 25 | 57 | 15 |
| Eastleigh | 19 | 4 | 14 | 1 | 29 | 92 | 13 |
| South Downs | 17 | 2 | 12 | 3 | 16 | 47 | 9 |
| Havant | 18 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 89 | 9 |
| Basingstoke | 19 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 11 | 47 | 7 |
| Portsmouth | 16 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 25 | 78 | 4 |

THIRD XI

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| Itchen | 14 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 79 | 13 | 37 |
| Brockenhurst | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 54 | 14 | 35 |
| Sparsholt | 13 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 49 | 12 | 35 |
| Totton | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 43 | 20 | 30 |
| Barton Peveril | 14 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 42 | 23 | 24 |
| Farnborough | 12 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 50 | 25 | 22 |
| Queen Mary's | 15 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 35 | 36 | 22 |
| South Downs | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 26 | 34 | 21 |
| King Edward's VI | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 39 | 28 | 20 |
| Taunton's | 12 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 31 | 14 |
| Poole | 15 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 19 | 38 | 12 |
| Collegiate(HCS) | 12 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 25 | 64 | 12 |
| Bay House | 13 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 18 | 29 | 9 |
| Peter Symonds | 13 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 19 | 42 | 6 |
| St Vincent | 11 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 54 | 5 |
| Eastleigh | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 64 | 0 |

WHAT A DAY AND WHAT A SEASON! A great day not only for the three celebrating Itchen College soccer teams, pictured above, but also their management. Head of sport, Glenn Colmer reflected: "James Taylor and myself played for Itchen back in the early 90s.

"Steve Perkins, who seems to have been around for ever, played for the college as well – back in the 30s, we reckon!

"This history has helped develop a real passion and desire to represent the college from the current crop.

"They were fantastic on Wednesday and have been all season."

Itchen still have a chance of another trophy next month, when they defend the Hampshire Colleges six-a-side crown at the Sports Centre on April 18.

Daily Echo pictures by Chris Moorhouse Order no: 14108632



VICTORIOUS: Itchen College 2nd XI (team captain Jack Garner holding cup).

Order no: 14108640

Cracker-JACK: Garner's four-goal salvo secures cup

WHAT a season it's been for Itchen's second string, who swept the board in Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges Second XI soccer.

They added the cup to the league championship title by crushing Brockenhurst 8-1 in the midweek final at Test Park.

Itchen won all bar one of their 18 games, losing only to Brockenhurst, who must have fancied their chances of a repeat when Brad Aspin steered them in front in the final.

But, by half-time, Itchen were 3-1 up and went on to win 8-1, with skipper Jack Garner scoring four times.

Josh Oxlade (2), Joe Richardson and Ollie Sourmenidis completed the scoring.

It took Itchen's tally for the season to 115 goals in 18 matches – and popular midfielder Matt Doulton didn't get one of them, a statistic his teammates continually rib him about!

Duo share Golden Boot

STRIKE pair Isaac Mclean and cup final winner Callum Oliver will share this season's Itchen College golden boot award.

The duo, so influential in the college's Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges 'double' triumph have each scored 25 goals.

Jack Garner, who scored four times in the Second XI's cup final win over Brockenhurst. hit the target 27 times this season with Josh Oxlade scoring 15.

Josh Hawkins topped the 3rd XI goal strikes with 18.

King's kick off the cups

WINCHESTER-BASED King's are involved in the first of the Hampshire Schools FA Cup finals against Petersfield at Solent University's Test Park complex on Tuesday.

They face up in the Year 8, under-13 final at 4.30pm.

Also through to county finals are St George's, who will play Southsea's Priory School in the under-12 cup.

Crestwood College meet Salesian in the under-16 cup final, with ESFA Cup quarter-finalists Bitterne Park through at under-15 level after a 5-2 midweek win over Calthorpe (Fleet).

EMAIL pictures to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

ITCHEN UP TO SCRATCH!

Bitterne based college repeats league and cup double

ITCHEN are celebrating a Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges 1st XI League and Cup double – for the second consecutive season!

They retained the newly named Peter Munro Cup with a 2-1 win over Sparsholt – Itchen coming from behind at Solent University's impressive Test Park complex with two headed goals from corners to repeat last season's success, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

Victory put the icing on the cake of another hugely successful season for the Bitterne-based college, who won the league championship for the fourth successive season, losing only one of their 15 league games and finishing nine points clear of Sparsholt.

Itchen thrashed Sparsholt 6-1 in last season's final, but there was never any likelihood of a repeat scoreline in a tough, uncompromising niggling affair. For the most part, it wasn't terribly pleasing on the eye and some way removed from Pele's Beautiful Game.

Osborne's Budget

Sparsholt are, to all intents and purposes, Salisbury City's academy side; one which is on the brink of winning the South West Counties Under-18 Youth League, and even though they took a second-half lead through Hayes Thomas, they were to finish Colleges' bridesmaids once again.

There was arguably more entertainment in George Osborne's Budget proposals than there was in a stop-go first half, punctuated by yellow cards with referee Steve



WINNER: Itchen's Callum Oliver (9) heads in their second goal and celebrates below, right of picture.
Order nos: 14108622 (above) & 14108619



Curry's work rate as high as the players'.

The opening 45 minutes produced just one shot on goal – Itchen's Ross Casey eventually grabbing the ball after it had bounced nastily in front of him in the six-yard box.

The cup final desperately needed a goal and it eventually came on the hour-mark, with Sparsholt taking the lead.

Toby McCauley hoisted a free kick into the Itchen penalty area and, in a mix-up in the Itchen defence, keeper Casey called but failed to reach the ball which fell into the path of Thomas, who headed it back into an unguarded net from outside the box. It was no mean header – and a goal the game desperately needed.

Itchen had not managed to find much rhythm to their play, but

inside five minutes they were on level terms. Sparsholt's marking from a left-side corner by Ryan Lewis was woeful and McCauley contrived to head into his own goal.

The game was unquestionably better for the goals and opened up for Isaac McLean to go close for Itchen and Michael Fahm to head over Casey's bar at the opposite end.

Six minutes from time Itchen got their winner – and once again Sparsholt's marking went AWOL from a corner.

It was a carbon copy of their equaliser – Lewis delivering the kick and Callum Oliver enjoying the freedom to head Itchen's winner.

Cue mass celebrations and one leg of a memorable cup-winning afternoon for Itchen Sixth Form College.



DOUBLE DELIGHT: Itchen College 1st XI.

Order no: 14108635

TURN TO NEXT PAGE FOR MORE COLLEGES FOOTBALL

Non-league Football

Amazing record

PLAYED 47, won 43, 252 goals scored – that's Itchen's stunning record from a season that has so far yielded two Hampshire Sixth Form League championships and three cups.

Both the first and second teams celebrated league and cup doubles, with a third beckoning if Itchen 3rd XI can beat Sparsholt in next Wednesday's title decider.

Here's a breakdown of the season's results (Itchen score first):

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1st XI League | |
| Portsmouth | 6-1 |
| Alton | 6-1 |
| Basingstoke | 9-0 |
| Farnborough | 2-1 |
| Peter Symonds | 1-3 |
| South Downs | 11-0 |
| Totton | 4-1 |
| Havant | 2-0 |
| Brockenhurst | 5-0 |
| Poole Grammar | 2-0 |
| Queen Mary's | 4-1 |
| Taunton's | 4-3 |
| Barton Peveril | 6-2 |
| Sparsholt | 2-1 |
| Peter Munro Cup | |
| R1: Portsmouth | 9-0 |
| R2: Totton | 3-2 |
| R3: Alton | 4-1 |
| F: Sparsholt | 2-1 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 2nd XI results League | |
| Eastleigh | 8-0 |
| Portsmouth | 10-2 |
| Alton | 5-1 |
| Basingstoke | 2-0 |
| Farnborough | 10-0 |
| Fareham | 2-0 |
| Bournemouth | 6-0 |
| Peter Symonds | 14-0 |
| South Downs | 7-0 |
| Totton | 6-3 |
| Havant | 2-0 |
| St Vincent | 5-1 |
| Brockenhurst | 2-3 |
| Poole Grammar | 2-0 |
| Queen Mary's | 7-0 |
| Bay House | 4-1 |
| Taunton's | 8-1 |
| Barton Peveril | 2-1 |
| Cup | |
| R1: Bay House | 3-0 |
| R2: Barton Peveril | 1-0 |
| R3: Farnborough | 1-0 |
| F: Brockenhurst | 8-1 |

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Third XI League | |
| Eastleigh | 23-0 |
| King Edward VI | 1-1 |
| Farnborough | 2-1 |
| Collegiate | 2-0 |
| Peter Symonds | 5-1 |
| South Downs | 6-1 |
| St Vincent | 11-0 |
| Brockenhurst | 5-1 |
| Poole Grammar | 2-0 |
| Queen Mary's | 6-2 |
| Bay House | 3-1 |
| Taunton's | 7-0 |
| Totton | 7-1 |
| Barton Peveril | 3-1 |
| Cup | |
| Barton Peveril | 5-1 |
| King Edward VI | 4-3 |
| Brockenhurst | 3-2 |
| Totton | 5-2 |



CUP WINNERS: Itchen College 3rd XI.

Order no: 14108637

Itchen targeting treble of doubles

ITCHEN came from behind to beat Totton 5-2 in the Third XI Cup final – but they still have one more match to win before they can join the College's double-winning set.

The Sixth Form Colleges Third XI League title is still to be decided – and Itchen must beat Sparsholt next Wednesday to pip the agricultural college (and Brockenhurst) to the championship.

They too have enjoyed a magnificent winter, winning 12 of their 14 league matches, losing only to Brockenhurst.

But they too fell behind in their cup final, Luke Smigielski giving Totton the lead, before Lewis Nash, Josh Hawkins and Matt Spicer scored to give Itchen a 3-1 lead.

Joe Brewer got it back to 3-2 for Totton, but late goals by Brad Griffiths and Coby Wilson sent the trophy Itchen's way.

SIX-SHOOTING QK SITTING PRETTY

QK SOUTHAMPTON put the previous week's cup disappointment behind them with a 6-3 victory at Sky Blues, a win that keeps them firmly in the under-18 Division 1 title-race.

Level on points with New Forest United with three games in-hand, Salisbury City have a lot of catching-up to do. Now concentrating on league matters, they had an impressive 5-0 win at home to luck-less Baddesley Park, **writes ALAN JOHNS.**

Eastbrook Harriers entertained Burridge and took the lead on 17 minutes, much against the run of play.

Burridge continued to knock the ball around well and had several half chances which they could not convert before suffering another hammer blow on 40 minutes when Eastbrook beat the offside trap and slotted home a second.

After the restart, Burridge upped their game, determined to get something from the match.

John Murdoch pulled it back to 2-1

■ CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH LEAGUE

on 50 minutes when he finished off a neat move.

Burridge pushed for the equaliser and on 75 minutes they had the ball in the net thanks to Glenn Littleboy, only to have it ruled offside. This spurred Burridge on and, after another attack, Littleboy hit a tight-angled shot which came back off the post – as his team ran out of time to get the leveller.

In Division 2, third-placed Alresford Town well and truly claimed the bragging rights by beating their clubmates 11-1, a win that keeps them in the title race but inflicts yet another defeat on their namesakes.

Michelmersh & Timsbury Athletic had a fine away win at Littleton Juniors, triumphing 9-1, and leaders Romsey Town won the big game of the day, 5-3 at second-placed AFC Stoneham.

Division 3 Leaders St Francis Rangers maintained their good form to beat AFC Hiltingbury 2-0, while

Itchen Royals won 4-1 at Michelmersh & Timsbury Colts.

In the under-16 age group, Division 1 side Winchester City Red beat Division 3 leaders AFC Stoneham in the second Challenge Cup semi-final. They will now meet Eastleigh at St Mary's Stadium on Friday, May 18 in the final after winning a very tight game 2-1.

Currently occupying second-place in Division 1, Eastleigh appear to have suffered a hangover from the previous week's cup celebrations and were beaten 4-2 at home by Salisbury City. AFC Totton's 7-1 away win at Cherbourg keeps them comfortably ahead at the top of the division, still unbeaten and with two games in-hand.

Sholing Whites won 1-0 at home to Winchester City Whites and St Francis Rovers beat Hythe & Dibden 3-1.

In a pulsating game that was level until after half-time, St Francis opened their scoring through Andy

Sheath. With 20 minutes to go, Hythe and Dibden were awarded a penalty and George Baker stepped up to slot the ball home. Some excellent pressure by St Francis was then rewarded with a goalmouth scramble during which Brady Hampton managed to get the ball over the goal line. Almost immediately, St Francis broke through again and this time some excellent link-up play between Tinashe Chiguvare and Matt Wells created a chance for Tristan Courtney who slotted the ball home.

Varying fortunes for the two BTC (Southampton) sides in Division 2; Athletic beat Chamberlayne Athletic 7-1 while Stoneham drew 2-2 at home to leaders Totton & Eling, who are still undefeated.

The other 'derby' was at Colden Common where the Colts just edged-out the Rangers to win 3-2. Bitterne beat Warsash Wasps 4-1 in the other fixture.

In Division 3, Blackfield & Langley were beaten 4-3 at home by Burridge in Division 3 and Botley Village won 3-1 at home against Sarisbury Sparks.

TURN TO PAGES 40&41 FOR MORE JUNIOR FOOTBALL

GIRLS AND LADIES' FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT

MEARS HAT-TRICK SETS UP SAINTS FOR TITLE

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Girls & Ladies FC under-12 girls cruised to the Winchester & District League title with a 4-0 victory over Warsash Wasps Black.

Saints settled well early in the game with some superb passing and striker Georgia-Rose Mears fired them ahead with her 50th goal of the season.

Despite their opponents defending well and a brave display from the keeper, it was only a matter of time before Mears scored a second. This was followed by an Alisha Buckingham goal from a long range shot after a mazy run from the halfway line.

The second half saw Saints once more dominant with good displays from Lucia Shiner and Abbie Kill.

Player of the game and captain Emily Herding was unfortunate not to score, while defender Rachael Harman and midfielder Lauren Stone also impressed.

Saints were rarely troubled and Mears completed both her hat-trick and the scoring.

In the dying minutes, Wasps had a couple of break-aways with Saints keeper Chloe Donaldson making a



SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS G&LFC U12: Back row (from left): Rachael Harman, Emily Herding, Leah Brown, Chloe Garrity, Georgia-Rose Mears. Front: Lucia Shiner, Abbie Kill, Sarah Bukeley, Lauren Stone, Alisha Buckingham, Chloe Donaldson.

smart save at her near post.

Striker Leah Brown was named player of the game by Wasps to add to several pre-

vious nominations this season.

Elsewhere in the league, Warsash Wasps

Yellows defeated Bishop's Waltham and Worthies 2-0 respectively to keep the battle for run-

ners-up spot alive.

The only other game saw Portsmouth University and Hedge End Rangers draw 1-1.

Eley's strike pegs back London giants

TIFFANY Eley grabbed an equaliser as Saints' under-15s/16s Sunday side claimed a 1-1 draw against Tottenham Hotspur Ladies in a prestige friendly in London.

Spurs took the lead when Saints switched off at a throw-in, and they were fortunate not to have conceded again when keeper Lucy Venables was surprised by a shot which came through a mass of players and was able only to palm the ball away.

Saints settled down and started to play some good passing football, deservedly equalising when Henderson fed Axton whose chip over the defence was read perfectly by sub Eley who volleyed high into the net.

Saints' defending in the second half was much tighter and the back four of Bekah Tonks, Katherine Robertson, Beth Whitehorn and Megan Richmond performed well.

Shots from Bonnie Browning, Ruby Collinson, Allana Falconer and Henderson were mainly from distance and did not trouble the Spurs keeper.

Saints played some great football, though, especially in midfield where Hannah Knapton, Coral Oakley, Axton, Eley and Henderson combined well with good passing moves.

Saints boss Peter Horne said: "The whole back four was excellent, and Megan Richmond at left back had her best game for us so far."

"This game showed the progress the squad has made, it was a real game of football such as would be played by two quality adult sides, and showed that several of our players will become very good open age players."

■ **SOUTHAMPTON** Saints' under-tens continued their good form by completing a fourth consecutive victory, 3-2 against Widbrook.

Winchester Flyers stay top of the Winchester & District Girls League table from Saints on goal difference after a 7-4 victory over Warsash.

Following a 1-0 defeat for Portsmouth University at Clanfield, Saints are now level at the top on 22 points with the Flyers. The two sides play each other in their final fixture on April 28 in a potential title decider.

Drop of bother

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies missed the chance of leapfrogging Portsmouth Uni and out of the South West Combination League relegation places after losing 2-0 at home to Chesham United.

Portsmouth lost 2-1 at Keynsham while Saints' valiant efforts came to nothing as Chesham claimed a lucky three points.

Saints keeper Haughton hardly had a shot to save until the 86th minute when Pascoe toe poked the ball into her own net while trying to make a tackle.

Pascoe had been the real thorn in Chesham's side, organising her back four and dealing with most attacks.

Saints did have their fair share of chances with the best two falling to Midge Browning.

To add insult to injury, Chesham grabbed a second six minutes into injury time which flattered them and left Saints totally devastated.

Saints now know that only a win in the relegation derby at Portsmouth Uni – and for Uni to also lose their four games in hand – will be enough to survive the drop.

Portsmouth now have to face teams in the top four, which will be no easy task.

The surprise result saw fifth placed Swindon Town shock second placed Havant 4-1 to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Rawlings sets tone

SAINTS' under-14s defeated Mudeford Phoenix 4-0 in the New Forest League. They had also beaten Phoenix in the Hampshire Cup the previous week.

Against a Mudeford side who were protecting an unbeaten league record, Saints – also undefeated in league action this term – romped into a 3-0 half-time lead.

Elle Pearce set up Cleo Rawlings for a neat finish before Jade Wardle volleyed in Rawlings' set piece.

It was 3-0 when Rawlings scored a typical individual goal after a strong run.

Mudeford never gave up and battled hard in the second half. But Saints continued to pepper their goal, Tori Adlam, Pearce, Rawlings all shooting over the bar, while Megan Chapman hit the bar with a great shot.

Finally this pressure paid off, Chapman lobbing a pass over the top for Adlam to juggle it over a defender before shooting low into the net.

Elsewhere in the New Forest League, Crofton won 4-1 at Sarum Youth while New Forest Jets defeated Bitterne Belles 6-4.

Boscombe Albion defeated lowly New Forest Jets 1-0.



SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS G&LFC U11: Back row (from left): Krystal Whyte (manager), Bex Quinn, Eleanor Eley, Chloe Davey, Beth Wilcock, Amber Sallows, Abbie Lee. Front: Molly Lowe, Libby O'Dell, Faith Wood, Millie Barnes.

Abbie in scoring habit

SKIPPER Abbie Lee led the celebrations as Saints' under-11s clinched the Winchester & District Girls League title.

She scored a hat-trick in a 7-0 home win against St Francis Rovers.

Rebecca Quinn and

Faith Wood both scored twice as Saints took their league goals tally to 100 in just 12 matches, and they have only conceded five!

Crofton Saints' Elle Hilton scored a hat-trick in their 5-0 victory against Portsmouth's Widbrook Ladies.

Winchester Flyers defeated Crookham Rovers 1-0 with a Sophie Gordon goal. Charlotte McKenzie bagged a brace as Warsash Wasps drew 2-2 with AFC Porchester, Kayleigh Doran and Megan Hance replying.

Youth Football



LINE-UP: Stoke Park Rangers.

Order no: 14088822



LINE-UP: Wyvern Dragons.

Order no: 14088787



ABOVE: Wyvern Dragons celebrate a goal in their clash with Stoke Park Rangers.

Order no: 14088741

RIGHT: A Stoke Park Rangers' player holds the ball up.

Order no: 14088598

LEFT: Wyvern Dragons go on the attack.

Order no: 14088649



FOR MORE SPORT NEWS VISIT: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Youth Football



ACTION: Above and below, match action from the clash between Wyvern Dragons (blue and red) and Stoke Park Rangers (red).

Order nos: 14088676 and 14088684



HANDS UP: Alex Danson with youngsters from Brockenhurst, Oakfield and Abbotswood schools.
Daily Echo pics by Chris Moorhouse. Order no: 14119438

Youngsters learn from the very best

GREAT Britain hockey star Alex Danson took time out from preparing for this summer's Olympics to lend a helping hand at a youth hockey tournament at Testwood College this week.

Danson put youngsters from Brockenhurst Primary School, Oakfield Primary School and Abbotswood Junior School through their paces at the In2Hockey event with a number of drills and routines to improve their skills.

The budding young stars then had a chance to put their newly learned techniques into practice in a number of small-sided matches.

SKILLS: Young hockey players pick up some tips from GB hockey star Alex Danson.

Order no: 14119526



■ CRICKET

Former Hants star is threat to England

SRI Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene is looking to follow Pakistan's lead by taking England down with spin – and has pinpointed a former Hampshire player as the main threat to Andrew Strauss's team.

The world's number one Test side were defeated 3-0 in the United Arab Emirates as Pakistan duo Saeed Ajmal and Abdur Rehman exposed a weakness against slow bowling.

They have since worked hard on their technique against spin and will get the chance to confront their demons when the first of two Tests gets under way in Galle on Monday.

Slow left-arm Ranga



RANGANA HERATH

Herath, who had a stint with Hampshire in 2010, and off-spinner Suraj Randiv will be waiting for them there and Jayawardene believes they can perform.

"We don't have Murali (Muttiah Muralitharan) anymore, but Rangana has been around for some time and he had a great series against South Africa, when he took control of things," he said.

"He's in pretty good rhythm. Suraj is pretty good in these conditions too, so those two guys give us some different variety."

"But we'll have to play good cricket to beat England. Pakistan played really good cricket to beat them and we need to do the same."

"It's not just going to happen because of the conditions and because of spinner-friendly wickets."

Asked if he intended to exploit Kevin Pietersen's frailty to left-arm spin by using Herath against him early in the innings, Jayawardene added: "We see there is an opportunity there but it's not just about Kevin. They have a group of batters who have been doing very well."

Southampton Primary Schools Cross Country

BOYS' OVERALL LEAGUE POSITIONS

- 1 Jack Higgins(Townhill)
- 2 Charlie Carter-Banks(Shirley)
- 3 Leon Longhurst(Shirley)
- 4 Luke Halford(Shirley)
- 5 Alfie Dancer(Highfield)
- 6 Tymek Mielczarczyk(Shirley Warren)
- 7 Nathan Hastings(Highfield)
- 8 Samuel May(Shirley)
- 9= Ben Bowles(Hollybrook)
- 9= Oliver Jenkins(Hollybrook)
- 11 Zack Williams(Shirley)
- 12 Toby Hale(Shirley)
- 13 Liam Higgins(Townhill)
- 14 Mattheu Bell(Hollybrook)
- 15 Ned White(Highfield)
- 16 Ben Rosie(Shirley Warren)
- 17 Ollie Lovell(Shirley)
- 18 Toby Dudson(Highfield)
- 19 Rhys Hillyer(Bassett Green)
- 20 Reece Kimber(Shirley)
- 21 Vincent White(Shirley)
- 22 Tim Damo(Shirley Warren)
- 23 Justin Basham(Shirley)
- 24 Oliver Jarvis(Charlton House)
- 25 Owen Lovland(Townhill)
- 26 Alex Padfield(Hollybrook)
- 27 Isaac Robinson(Shirley)
- 28 Joseph Whitmore(Thornhill)
- 29= Michael Briggs(Charlton House)
- 29= Ethan Kimber(Shirley)
- 31= Edward Held(Shirley)
- 31= Jack Ramsden(Townhill)
- 33= Leo Dobbs(Shirley)
- 33= Thomas Woodcock(Shirley)
- 35 Alfie Dudson(Highfield)
- 36 Caleb Venable(Hollybrook)
- 37= Sammy Lloyd(Shirley)
- 37= Alex Williams(Shirley)
- 39= Thomas Goldstraw(Shirley)
- 39= Frazer Hart(Shirley)
- 41 Angus Allan(Highfield)
- 42 William Grant(Shirley)
- 43 James Cummings-Candal(Charlton House)
- 44= Jorge Cianca(Bassett Green)
- 44= Alfie Wright(Charlton House)
- 46 Oliver Bundy(Hollybrook)
- 47 Toby Budd(Shirley)
- 48 Nico Bray(Charlton House)
- 49 Abdullah Quraisha(Shirley Warren)
- 50 Changhyun Gil(Hollybrook)
- 51 Toby Longhurst(Shirley)
- 52 Josh Bateman(Highfield)
- 53 Dellan Bell(Thornhill)
- 54= Edward Dare(Charlton House)
- 54= Callum Reeves(Townhill)
- 56 William Hockley(Hollybrook)
- 57 Dylan Maughn(Shirley)
- 58 Jack Kelly(Shirley)
- 59 Oliver Young(Hollybrook)

GIRLS' OVERALL LEAGUE POSITIONS

- 1 Isla Allen(Highfield)
- 2= Margot Broome(Highfield)
- 2= Abigail Woodcock(Shirley)
- 4 Alice Orr(Shirley)
- 5 Sophie Shiner(Charlton House)
- 6= Georgia O'dell(Shirley)
- 6= Olaide Onis(Shirley Warren)
- 8 Alisha Wyatt(Shirley Warren)
- 9 Annie Bulkeley(Charlton House)
- 10 Lydia Agbonkhina(Shirley Warren)
- 11 Matilda Bull(Shirley)
- 12 Monique Young(Bassett Green)
- 13 Charlotte Witcher(Hollybrook)
- 14 Stella Bondoni(Hollybrook)
- 15 Molly Mills(Thornhill)
- 16 Chloe Errington(Highfield)
- 17 Nevada Campbell(Townhill)
- 18 Ella Reed(Shirley)
- 19 Nina Hhicks(Shirley)
- 20 Tilly Muir(Shirley)
- 21 Sophie Wood(Bassett Green)
- 22 Ella Biggs(Bassett Green)
- 23 Emily Cooney(Charlton House)
- 24 Maisy Parkes(Hollybrook)
- 25 Isobel Browning(Charlton House)
- 26 Lucy Taylor(Shirley)
- 27 Hannah Jewell(Shirley)
- 28 Abigail Goldstraw(Shirley)
- 29 Millie Clark(Shirley)
- 30 Molly Pinnick(Thornhill)



Order no: 14080362



Order no: 14080354



Order no: 14080294

- 31 Eve Ramsdale(Highfield)
- 32 Lexie Towner(Shirley)
- 33 Kitty Malone(Shirley)
- 34= Yeonho Gil(Hollybrook)
- 34= Naomi Gulliver(Hollybrook)
- 36 Angelica Cox(Hollybrook)
- 37 Catherine Briggs(Charlton House)

- 38 Sophie Lacey(Thornhill)
- 39 Sophie Lockwood(Shirley Warren)
- 40 Hannah Lockwood(Shirley Warren)
- 41 Sophie Fay(Shirley)
- 42 Holly Whyte(Hollybrook)
- 43 Alisha Sood(Charlton House)
- 44 Tia Sidhu(Shirley)

- 45 Rachel Lockwood(Shirley Warren)
- 46= Isabelle Grant(Shirley)
- 46= Naomi Danson(Hollybrook)
- 48 Chelsey Elliott(Townhill)
- 49 Ellie Chant(Hollybrook)
- 50 Georgia Edmond(Hollybrook)
- 51 Chloe Field(Hollybrook)

- 54 Georgia Morris(Hollybrook)
- 55 Melody Biebeda(Bassett Green)
- 56 Caitlin Budd(Bassett Green)
- 57 Bronwyn Thubron(Bassett Green)
- 58 Lauren Hounsell(Bassett Green)
- 59 Eloise Mason(Charlton House)
- 60 Lucia Shiner(Charlton House)

SCHOOL SPORTS STORY TO TELL? CALL SPORTS

Championships, Southampton Sports Centre

SUCCESS



SPRINT START: The boys' race gets under way. Order no: 14080306



Order no: 14080343



Order no: 14080326



Order no: 14080334

61 Stephanie Judd . . . (Charlton House)
62 Zahara al-Hashimi . . . (Highfield)
63 Maddy Lambrou . . . (Highfield)
64 Olivia Manger-Webber . . . (Highfield)
65 Lucy Brunsdon . . . (Shirley)
66 Jade Carder . . . (Shirley)
67 Heather Doswell . . . (Shirley)

68 Shania McCafferey . . . (Shirley)
69 Aspen McCafferey . . . (Shirley)
71 Lily Orr . . . (Shirley)
72 Molly Robinson . . . (Shirley)
73 Florence Stone . . . (Shirley)
74 Aldred Stone . . . (Shirley)
75 Kasia Szymczak . . . (Shirley)

76 Agie Szymczak . . . (Shirley)
77 Chloe Tsao . . . (Shirley)
78 Lucy Walker . . . (Shirley)
79 Rachel King . . . (Shirley)
80 Sidrah Quraisha . . . (Shirley Warren)
81 Ollie Dyer . . . (Shirley Warren)
82 Olivia Hewitt . . . (Shirley Warren)

83 Kirsten Cinco . . . (Shirley Warren)
84 Charli Macklin . . . (Shirley Warren)
85 Tamzyn Holmes . . . (Shirley Warren)
86 Holly Gray . . . (Shirley Warren)
87 Hannah Cook . . . (Thornhill)
88 Canada Knox . . . (Thornhill)
89 Olivia Mitchell . . . (Thornhill)

90 Holly Flynn . . . (Townhill)
91 Lea Hillyar . . . (Townhill)
92 Niamh Dunlop . . . (Townhill)
93 Holly Rankin . . . (Townhill)
94 Elli-Rose Francis . . . (Townhill)
95 Jessica Smith . . . (Townhill)
96 Jessica Fry . . . (Townhill)
97 Jodi Griffin . . . (Townhill)
98 Paula Novikova . . . (Townhill)
99 Ellie Lewis . . . (Townhill)
100 Charlotte Plumtree . . . (Shirley)
101 Poppy Lindsay . . . (Highfield)
102 Yuqing Chen . . . (Highfield)
103 Rosie Lacey . . . (Thornhill)
104 Ellicia Field . . . (Hollybrook)
105 Poppy Martin-Coe . . . (Hollybrook)
106 Millie Hardwick . . . (Shirley Warren)
107 Fathima Quraisha . . . (Shirley Warren)
108 Diana Zaletova . . . (Shirley Warren)
109 Kaytlin Roberts . . . (Charlton House)
110 Olivia Craddock . . . (Thornhill)
111 Jade Rendell . . . (Bassett Green)

LOWER SCHOOL RESULTS - GIRLS

1 Margot Broome . . . (Highfield)
2 Sophie Shiner . . . (Charlton House)
3 Alisha Wyatt . . . (Shirley Warren)
4 Jessica Higgins . . . (Townhill Junior)
5 Chloe Errington . . . (Highfield)
6 Ella Reed . . . (Shirley Junior)
7 Tilly Muir . . . (Shirley Junior)
8 Jessica Smith . . . (Townhill Junior)
9 Kitty Malone . . . (Shirley Junior)
10 Hannah Ewell . . . (Shirley Junior)
11 Poppy Martin-Coe . . . (Hollybrook)
12 Lucy Walker . . . (Shirley Junior)
14 Dahi Mielczarczyk . . . (Shirley Warren)
15 Holly Gray . . . (Shirley Warren)
16 Gabrielle Rams . . . (Shirley Warren)
17 Tia Sidhu . . . (Shirley Junior)
18 Chelsey Elliott . . . (Townhill Junior)
19 Lilly Potter . . . (Shirley Warren)
20 Eve Ramsdale . . . (Highfield)
21 Charlotte Plumtree . . . (Shirley Junior)
22 Kirsten Cinco . . . (Shirley Warren)
23 Rachel Lockwood . . . (Shirley Warren)
24 Diana Zaletova . . . (Shirley Warren)
25 Tahreen Sahre . . . (Shirley Warren)
26 Bianca Rai . . . (Shirley Warren)
27 Cassidy Wallace . . . (Shirley Warren)
28 Ruby Stevenson . . . (Hollybrook)
29 Isobel Grant . . . (Shirley Junior)
30 Alice Wilkins . . . (Townhill Junior)
31 Rosie Wareham . . . (Townhill Junior)

BOYS' RESULTS

1 Zack Williams . . . (Shirley Junior)
2 Liam Higgins . . . (Townhill Junior)
3 Ollie Lovell . . . (Shirley Junior)
4 Isac Hughes . . . (Charlton House)
5 Reece Kimber . . . (Shirley Junior)
6 Sam Benham . . . (Shirley Warren)
7 Michael Briggs . . . (Charlton House)
8 Ollie Cook . . . (Shirley Junior)
9 Rory Villaro-Briggs . . . (Highfield)
10 Owen Lovland . . . (Townhill Junior)
11 Leo Dobbs . . . (Shirley Junior)
12 Thomas Goldstraw . . . (Shirley Junior)
13 Lyle Henry . . . (Charlton House)
14 Ben Hulbert . . . (Townhill Junior)
15 Alfie Dudson . . . (Highfield Primary)
16 Josh Abanethy . . . (Charlton House)
17 Angus Allan . . . (Highfield Primary)
18 Braydon Kellaway . . . (Townhill Junior)
19 Jack Kelly . . . (Shirley Junior)
20 Nick Jarvis . . . (Hollybrook)
21 Isaac Robinson . . . (Shirley Junior)
22 Edward Dare . . . (Charlton House)
23 Callum Reeves . . . (Townhill Junior)
24 Sebastian Knowles . . . (Highfield)
25 Aziz Gillingham . . . (Shirley Junior)
26 Jack Buchanan . . . (Townhill Junior)
27 Jack Leighfield . . . (Townhill Junior)
28 Jonathan Gulliver . . . (Hollybrook)
29 Callum Thomas . . . (Shirley Warren)
30 Samuel Hinks . . . (Highfield)
31 Nathan Phillips . . . (Highfield)
32 Mitchell Severn . . . (Shirley Warren)
33 Alex Jarvis . . . (Hollybrook)
34 Chris Cam . . . (Shirley Warren)
35 Connor Wood . . . (Charlton House)
36 Emre Aras Gorman (Charlton House)
37 Peter Abbaud . . . (Shirley Warren)
38 Garan Chapman . . . (Shirley Warren)

CRICKET

Anderson turns up heat on KP & co

JAMES Anderson has told England's batsmen they have "a point to prove" in Sri Lanka.

The England batting line-up has been instrumental in the team's surge to number one in the Test rankings but, after two years of consistent run scoring throughout the top seven, they came unstuck spectacularly in the recent series against Pakistan.

England were routed 3-0 in the United Arab Emirates as Pakistan, led by spinners Saeed Ajmal and Abdur Rehman, bowled Andrew Strauss' side out six times for less than 260.

Things have already looked better at the start of this trip, with first-class centuries from Alastair Cook, Andrew Strauss and Jonathan Trott.

There were also fifties from Matt Prior, Samit Patel, Ravi Bopara and former Hampshire player Kevin Pietersen, right, as the tourists chased down a fourth-innings target of 359 against Sri Lanka's Development XI.

"They obviously have a point to prove," said Anderson after England trained for the first time in Galle ahead of Monday's Test.

"The way we batted in our second innings of the last warm-up game was fantastic. We chased down a really high score in not many overs and we can take a lot of confidence from that."

"All of our top six or seven have had a good hit in the middle on this trip and hopefully they can start well on Monday."

The issue that will be taxing Strauss and team director Andy Flower most in the build-up to the match is the number six position.

Bopara was the clear favourite to replace the axed Eoin Morgan, not least because his useful medium-pacers offered England another bowling option in unforgiving physical conditions.

Anderson and new ball partner Stuart Broad will be unable to settle in for lengthy spells in this heat and Essex all-rounder Bopara was seen as the ideal relief bowler.

But he is suffering with a side injury and is not fit to bowl in the series.

He may still play as a specialist batsman, but will now face increased pressure from Patel and Tim Bresnan.

Patel's batting is of a similar level to Bopara's and his left-arm spin could make him an attractive option as England seek to lighten the load on their attack.

Anderson admits there is a dilemma. "It is going to be a difficult decision obviously, with Ravi not being able to bowl," said Anderson.

"It's always difficult going in with just two seamers and two spinners and not having that fifth bowling option."

"It's slightly different for seamers here because in this heat the spells will be shorter than we're used to."

"Sri Lanka is probably a place where it is easy to leak runs and that's something we're well aware of. Hopefully it's something we can combat."

"Obviously Trott and KP can bowl a few overs but the decision the selectors have to make is whether they want that fifth bowler to be someone who is more capable with the ball."



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"You have few players who dominate like this, but he does it. You can compare him perfectly to (Michael) Jordan. It's all been said before about Messi. He doesn't only score goals, he scores great goals; each one is better than the last. We are seeing the very best in action" - **Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola pays tribute to Lionel Messi after he became the club's highest-ever goalscorer at just 24 years of age.**

"Unfortunately, I never played with him, but from what I'm told he was a colossus. We can speak frequently of world-class players, but icon and legend belongs to Merv the Swerve" - **Wales coach Rob Howley pays tribute to Mervyn Davies who died following a long illness.**

"I was well aware of how great he was as a player and to be on a list of Grand Slam-winning captains alongside players like him makes me feel very privileged" - **Wales captain Sam Warburton, right, pays his own tribute to Mervyn Davies.**



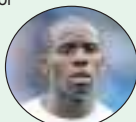
"It's good for the pubs of Cardiff because their fans will drink a lot of beer" - **France coach Philippe Saint-Andre after his side had lost to Wales who won the Grand Slam with their 16-9 victory.**

"Jimmy Anderson wasn't very happy because he'd had a wicket robbed off him, Strauss was miffed that his integrity was questioned and I wanted to kill the batsman because he was cheating. He was stood right next to me with a smug look on his face" - **England spinner Graeme Swann gives his view on Sri Lankan batsman Dilruwan Perera who stood his ground during the warm-up game against a Board XI.**

"Fabrice is someone we see every day. He is part of our family, not just a colleague. Nothing has been handed to him on a plate. We all know where he has come from and where he is now. He is such a great role model to any young player or young adult" - **Bolton captain and ex-Saint Kevin Davies pays his tribute to team-mate Fabrice Muamba after he suffered a cardiac arrest during the FA Cup quarter-final with Tottenham.**

"We all know he's such a wonderful lad, he's a young man and we all hope that will help in this brave fight which he is undergoing at the moment" - **Bolton manager Owen Coyle takes a break from his hospital vigil to speak of Muamba.**

"In effect he was dead in that time. Fabrice was in a type of cardiac arrest where the heart is showing lots of electrical activity but no muscular activity. It's something that often responds to drugs and shocks. Now heaven knows why, but Fabrice had, in total, 15 shocks. He had a further 12 shocks in the ambulance" - **Bolton team doctor Jonathan Tobin describes what happened after Muamba's, above, heart attack.**



"Quality signings such as Danny are a massive statement of intent from the Sharks as we aim to become a Super Northern club" - **Sale coach Steve Diamond rolls out the red carpet for new signing Danny Cipriani.**

"Carlos is not 100% but that is normal. But he knows the football. That was important because he did an incredible assist for Samir. What happened with him finished one month ago when Carlos came back and everything was finished" - **Roberto Mancini after Carlos Tevez returns in Manchester City's 2-1 win over Chelsea.**

-- Non-league extra -- -- Non-league extra --



Life's a beach in Dorset

DORSET FA is inviting teams to enter the first mainland beach soccer league in the country, which kicks-off in June.

They have been working closely with the England beach soccer team and Poole Borough Council.

The construction by the borough council of a second permanent

pitch on the sands between Canford Cliffs and Branksome Chine has helped prompt the formation of a league.

It will run for six weeks during June and July and is open to applications (via dorsetfa.com)

In addition to the Poole Beach Soccer League, there are plans for

other beach soccer activities and events to run in Poole this summer in partnership with Dorset FA and England Beach Soccer.

John Hawkins, chief executive of England Beach Soccer, said: "For many years, we've wanted to develop Dorset as a beach soccer Mecca as it has the most stunning

beaches and the council, Dorset FA and the potential players here seem to have the appetite to create something very special.

"These initiatives are taking beach soccer in England to a new level and will surely become the template for all good beach soccer development in the future."

NERVOUS WAIT FOR POOLE

POOLE Town vice-chairman Chris Reeves has called for "common sense" from the FA ahead of the club's imminent second ground grading inspection.

The club's Tatnam HQ needs to achieve the FA's 'D grade' by the end of March for the club to continue competing in the Southern League next season and gain access to the play-offs this term, **writes ANDY MITCHELL.**

Chiefs from Wembley, who are set to visit Tatnam on Wednesday, told Dolphins they needed development on two sides of the stadium, resulting in the new £12,000 stand that provides cover for 100 people behind the goal at the clubhouse end of the ground.

The biggest remaining concern is along-

side the side that joins the school field, where Poole officials have laid down rubber matting and temporary plastic flooring during the season.

For the D grade, FA guidelines state: "Any level surface within the ground should ideally be hard standing, such as asphalt, concrete, concrete paving or other approved materials which create a bound surface. However, flat and well maintained grassed areas may be accepted."

With the club funding the walkway for the popular area of the stadium, Reeves hopes the path will get the green light.

The Dolphins chief said: "We have told the FA what we have done and sent them detailed specifications of the material and photographs, so we are confident.

"The school needs the full field in the

summer so we can't put concrete down - whatever we put down for the nine months of the season we have to take up for the summer, but we are confident the FA will be happy.

"In addition, there is thick, solid rubber matting which, until recently, we understood was acceptable, so we have got two layers of quasi hard-standing.

"If that is not good enough I would be very frustrated.

"What we have put down protects everyone from muddy grass - it is secure and solid so we are hopeful it will be okay."

If the path is rejected, Dolphins would be forced to run with a three-sided ground, which would still pass the D grade, meeting the capacity criteria of 1,300.



CHRIS REEVES



- **ST FRANCIS Knights** are celebrating after clinching the Southampton Tyro League's Division 4 title with three games to spare.
- Any nerves against Granley soon disappeared as Mat Petley got them off to a flying start inside three minutes. Cutting in from the right, he hit a 18 yard screamer into the top corner.
- Petley then set up Ben Rouse to double the lead and further goals from Tom Smith and Lewis Squibb helped St.Francis to the silverware.

E-MAIL US AT: echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

-- Non-league extra -- -- Non-league extra --

BOOK of the WEEK

My Life as a Hooker,
By Steven Gauge

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £5.49 saving £2.50 on rrp

Those tell-tale signs of males experiencing a midlife crisis may be sniggered at almost every day.

Acquiring a convertible car is the classic forty-something reaction to greying hair and an aching back.

Generally bought as an "investment" (highly unlikely unless the buyer has spent over £300,000), it is often accompanied by a new blonde companion who stays in tow until she belatedly discovers said forty-something's varicose veins.

There's a raft of other indications: dyed hair, pierced ears, even tattoos and the adaptation of a more 'youthful' wardrobe.

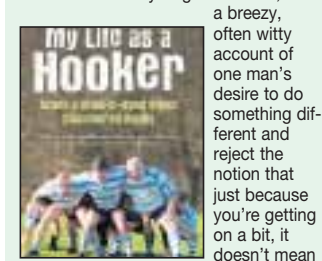
Onlookers must stifle their laughter as one imagines Steve Gauge did when, faced with what he suspected was his own approaching midlife crisis.

He decided to take up rugby instead.

It was a brave move by a man who last donned his rugby kit at school, especially as he wasn't particularly successful at it.

But thankfully, Gauge has submitted his midlife experiences to paper and come up with an entertaining meander through rugby clubs, drinking and, of course, rugby tours.

This is not heavyweight literature, but



often witty account of one man's desire to do something different and reject the notion that just because you're getting on a bit, it doesn't mean

you're quite ready for a Zimmer frame.

Why rugby?
The author gives a decent enough reason: "When life becomes a bit complicated – work, relationships, money, children, you know the sort of thing – playing rugby is a great way to clear the head. It forces you to stop re-circling, recycling and regurgitating the everyday niggles of life in your mind and just deal with the basic physical reality of staying alive on the pitch."

My Life as a Hooker is littered with blokish anecdotes – a favourite is the full back who turned up to play for the fourth XV having told his wife he was popping out for potatoes.

He played, bought the spuds and went back home to cook dinner.

"Rolling around in the mud with a bunch of beer-swilling reprobates has," concludes Gauge, "turned out to be an enormously pleasurable experience and brought a broad smile to an otherwise grumpy face."

And the moral of the story is: if you're currently thinking of buying a convertible, consider playing rugby – it'll be much more fun.

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of *My Life as a Hooker* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website sportsbookofthemonth.com and answer the following question:

Which country won the 2011 Rugby World Cup?



SUNDAY BEST: Knighton Arms get their hands on the Hants FA Sunday Senior Cup – again.

PETE Castle netted a hat-trick as Knighton Arms completed a Hampshire Sunday Senior Cup treble – despite having two players sent off.

The former Reading professional – who remains the youngest player to ever appear for the Royals in a Football League game – struck twice in the first half of the final against Bournemouth's Queens Park at AFC Totton's Testwood Park.

And Castle, who plays his Saturday football for Sydenhams Wessex Premier high fliers GE Hamble, clinched Arms' third successive Senior Cup with a second half spot-kick.

Knighton started the more confident of the two sides, while Park defender Mike Johnston received

lengthy treatment to a head wound. Once bandaged, he was able to continue.

Andy Milton blazed high over the bar in the seventh minute for Knighton, before they took the lead seven minutes later.

Seemingly having averted any danger, Karl Griffin laid the ball back into the path of his goalkeeper Matt Harvey to clear – only for the keeper's clearance to be charged down by Castle who guided the rebound over the line.

Knighton keeper Ryan Gosney had to be quickly off his line to clear from Jay Saunders on 25 minutes as Park settled down and became more competition for their Southampton-based opponents.

Knighton added a second goal on the stroke of half time.

Captain Simon Quirk's through ball was collected by Castle, who coolly drew keeper Harvey before slipping the ball past him.

In first half stoppage time both sides had chances.

First Park's Trevor Griffin curled a free kick narrowly wide whilst Knighton's Andy Milton saw a header from Shane Flookes' corner blocked. Castle's follow up was also blocked.

The game was finished as a contest six minutes into the second period.

Knighton's Liam Crook floated a cross into the area where Castle and Park defender Johnston rose. The latter was adjudged to have handled and Castle sent Harvey the wrong way from the penalty spot.

On 55 minutes Knighton were reduced to ten men when Craig

Shrimpton was shown a second yellow for a lunge on Griffin.

With 20 minutes remaining, Knighton sub Danny Cox should have done better with a header following good work by Crook and Bobby Lamb.

Johnston, again free from his defensive duties, also could have brought a better result with a header seven minutes later for Queens.

Cox's chip was clawed away by Harvey before a last ditch tackle by Steve Haime denied Cox again.

The last chance of the game fell to Park's Martin Da Silva in stoppage time, but he fired wide.

As referee Louis Marks blew the final whistle, an altercation in front of the main stand saw Knighton's Cox and Nathan Brown of Park dismissed.

Arms can't halt Milton tide

NEW Forest side Foresters Arms failed to prevent Milton Rovers retaining the Hampshire Sunday Intermediate Cup.

The Portsmouth-based Rovers, pictured celebrating, claimed a 2-0 final victory at AFC Totton to retain the trophy they had first won 12 months earlier.

Foresters, from Brockenhurst, started brightly with Adam Gates having a shot saved by Milton keeper and captain Anthony Male in the fifth minute.

Milton were in front a minute later when a left wing corner by Calum Gray was headed against the bar by Ben Daniels but fell invitingly for David McHugh to prod home.

Rovers almost increased their lead two minutes later when James Batten saw a header saved by Angelo Minardi from Gray's free



kick.

Foresters hit back when Simon Young's left wing run ended with him cutting inside his full back then seeing his shot deflected onto the bar by a defender.

Foresters' William Stride saw a header from a Young cross was saved by Male on 24 minutes before Kevin James' good wing play produced a cross that saw the stretching Stride head wide.

Milton had two chances on the half hour mark – Gray's corner arriving in the six-yard box where the unmarked Stuart Dollery fired over, and Minardi then denying Oliver Watts.

Milton introduced Lewie Madden for the start of the second period, at the expense of McHugh, and within three minutes Madden was deep in the action when he turned home Milton's second goal.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

TOOLSTATION
A LOT MORE THAN TOOLS

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Notice of Public exhibition

The University of Southampton will be holding a public exhibition on the plans to redevelop our current Chamberlain Hall and Bassett House sites into a New Chamberlain Hall.

The exhibition will be open for public viewing on:

Friday 30 March | 4pm–6pm

Saturday 31 March | 9am–11am

In the current Chamberlain Hall reception accessed from Glen Eyre Road.

www.southampton.ac.uk/estatedevelopment

Let Your Light Shine Service for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Saturday 31st March 2012 2.30pm

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At: Shirley Warren Action Church, Warren Crescent, Southampton, SO16 6AY

For more information please telephone or email the organisers

Tel: 023 8078 7930

Mobile: 07736 380445

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Daily Echo

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Rose Road
Association



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| 16 Apr : Torquay, Steam & Sail 5 day | £242 |
| 16 & 30 Apr : Bulbfields, Ghent & Ostend 5 day | £299 |
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| 23 Apr : Isle of Wight 5 day..... | £299 |
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| 30 Apr : Torquay Steam & Sail 5 day..... | £258 |
| 30 Apr : Austria 8 day | £679 |
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| 04 May : Bulbfields & Amsterdam 4 day | £293 |
| 06 May : Ireland – Carlow 6 day | £479 |
| 06 May : A Brief Encounter with the Kings Speech 5 day...£354 | |
| 06 May : Chester & The Llangollen Canal 5 day..... | £329 |
| 07 May : Gardens of Cornwall 5 day..... | £299 |
| 07 May : Warners Holme Lacy 5 day | £395 |
| 07 May : The Devon Wanderer 5 day | £249 |
| 07 May : The Costa Brava Flower Festival 9 day..... | £496 |
| 07 May : The Gironde Estuary River Cruise 10 Day..... | £1199 |
| 10 May : Malvern Spring Flower Show 3 day | £198 |
| 11 May : Paignton at Leisure 8 day..... | £339 |
| 12 May : Jersey by Air 8 day | £480 |
| 13 May : Beamish & Cookson 5 day | £309 |
| 14 May : Eastbourne & Bluebell Railway 5 day | £319 |
| 14 May : North Devon – Ilfracombe 5 day..... | £259 |
| 14 May : Ostend & Brugge 5 day | £299 |
| 20 May : South Wales – Tenby 7 day | £427 |
| 20 May : Nottingham, Peak District & Lincoln 5 day | £289 |
| 20 May : Salzburg & The Austrian Lakes 8 day | £646 |
| 20 May : Bournemouth at Leisure 6 day | £239 |
| 21 May : Folkestone, Dover Castle & Brugge 5 day..... | £269 |
| 21 May : Torquay Steam & Sail 5 day | £247 |
| 25 May : Paris City Break 4 day | £259 |
| 26 May : Welsh Coast – Barmouth 8 day | £476 |

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| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arsenal3 | A. Villa0 |
| Gibbs 16 | |
| Walcott 25 | |
| Arrieta 90 | |
| HT 2-0 | |
| Bolton2 | Blackburn1 |
| Wheatley 28,35 | Nzonzi 56 |
| HT 2-0 | Att 26,901 |
| Chelsea0 | Spurs0 |
| HT 0-0 | Att 41,830 |
| Liverpool1 | Wigan2 |
| Suarez 47 | Maloney 30 pen |
| HT 0-1 | Caldwell 63 |
| Norwich2 | Wolves1 |
| Holt 26,45 pen | Jarvis 25 |
| HT 2-1 | Att 26,752 |
| StokeL | Man CityL |
| HT L-L | |
| Sunderland3 | Q.P.R.0 |
| Bendtner 41 | Taiwo 79 |
| McClelland 70 | |
| Sessegnon 76 | |
| HT 1-0 | Att 37,128 |
| Swansea0 | Everton2 |
| | Baines 59 |
| | Jelavic 76 |
| | Att 20,509 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Man Utd | 29 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 39 | 15 | 71 | 3 | 1 | 34 | 12 | 70 |
| Man City | 25 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 14 | 69 |
| Arsenal | 30 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 34 | 12 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 27 | 58 |
| Spurs | 30 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 31 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 21 | 55 |
| Chelsea | 30 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 31 | 19 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 55 |
| Newcastle | 29 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 23 | 19 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 26 | 47 |
| Liverpool | 30 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 19 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 17 | 19 | 42 |
| Sunderland | 30 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 20 | 40 |
| Everton | 30 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 18 | 40 |
| Swansea | 30 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 24 | 39 |
| Norwich | 29 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 17 | 28 | 39 |
| Stoke | 29 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 26 | 37 |
| Fulham | 29 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 29 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 18 | 36 |
| W.B.A. | 29 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 16 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 22 | 36 |
| A. Villa | 29 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 16 | 21 | 36 |
| Blackburn | 30 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 22 | 27 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 21 | 35 | 28 |
| Bolton | 29 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 29 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 26 |
| Q.P.R. | 30 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 24 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 16 | 29 | 25 |
| Wigan | 30 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 25 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| Wolves | 30 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 17 | 35 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 30 | 22 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Leyton O0 | Sheff Wed1 |
| HT 0-0 | R Johnson 49 |
| Oldham1 | CHERRIES0 |
| Taylor 52 | Att 6,196 |
| HT 0-0 | Att 4,459 |
| Preston1 | Bury0 |
| Aneke 68 | Elford-Alliyy 90 |
| HT 0-0 | |
| Scunthorpe0 | Notts Cnty0 |
| HT 0-0 | Att 4,613 |
| Tranmere2 | Exeter0 |
| Labadie 49 | |
| Cassidy 90 | |
| HT 0-0 | Att 4,786 |
| Walsall1 | Stevenage0 |
| Butler 3 | Bostwick 60 |
| HT 1-0 | Att 4,786 |
| Wycombe1 | M K Dons0 |
| Beavon 90 | Powell 46 |
| HT 0-0 | Att 5,572 |
| Yeovil0 | Hartlepool1 |
| HT 0-0 | Noble 65 |
| | Att 4,033 |

| | HOME | | | | | | AWAY | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|----|---|---|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
| Charlton | 39 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 38 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 32 | 14 | 82 | |
| Sheff Wed | 39 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 39 | 18 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 28 | 27 | 74 | |
| Sheff Utd | 38 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 44 | 22 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 30 | 19 | 73 | |
| Huddersfild | 38 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 32 | 17 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 39 | 21 | 71 | |
| M K Dons | 38 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 39 | 17 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 33 | 23 | 67 | |
| Carlisle | 37 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 35 | 27 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 19 | 29 | 58 | |
| Stevenage | 37 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 26 | 18 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 25 | 16 | 57 | |
| Notts Cntry | 39 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 32 | 23 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 26 | 31 | 57 | |
| Colchester | 38 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 32 | 29 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 20 | 52 | |
| Brentford | 37 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 30 | 22 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 22 | 50 | |
| Hartlepool | 39 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 18 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 28 | 50 | |
| Tranmere | 39 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 19 | 28 | 48 | |
| CHERRIES | 38 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 23 | 48 | |
| Oldham | 37 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 23 | 22 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 32 | 48 | |
| Preston | 38 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 29 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 22 | 28 | 47 | |
| Yeovil | 39 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 28 | 32 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 22 | 32 | 46 | |
| Scunthorpe | 39 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 26 | 29 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 22 | 23 | 43 | |
| Leyton O | 37 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 25 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 31 | 43 | |
| Bury | 39 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 31 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 26 | 39 | 43 | |
| Wycombe | 39 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 31 | 31 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 26 | 41 | 40 | |
| Walsall | 38 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 10 | 7 | 18 | 22 | 39 | | |
| Rochdale | 39 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 27 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 14 | 35 | 34 | |
| Exeter | 39 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 21 | 24 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 12 | 38 | 34 | |
| Chesterfild | 38 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 23 | 37 | 33 | |



SANDWICHED: Tottenham Hotspur's Emmanuel Adebayor in action against Chelsea's Ramires, left, and Gary Cahill, right, during the Barclays Premier League match at Stamford Bridge.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Celtic | 30 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 11 | 75 |
| Rangers | 30 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 4 | 30 | 10 | 54 |
| Motherwell | 31 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 54 |
| Dundee Utd | 31 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 30 | 26 | 46 |
| St Johnstn | 30 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 20 | 24 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 21 | 10 | 46 |
| Hearts | 31 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 16 | 42 |
| Kilmarnock | 31 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 23 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 21 | 37 |
| Aberdeen | 31 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 18 | 13 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 21 | 33 |
| St Mirren | 31 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 18 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 23 | 32 |
| Inverness CT30 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 29 | 31 | 23 |
| Hibernian | 31 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 31 | 23 |
| Dunfermline | 31 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 17 | 40 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 14 | 27 | 20 |

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|---------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Cowdenbth | 30 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 27 | 16 | 63 |
| Arbroath | 30 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 42 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 25 | 24 | 56 |
| Dumbarton | 30 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 28 | 29 | 45 |
| Stenhousemuir | 30 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 29 | 17 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 41 |
| East Fife | 30 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 24 | 25 | 41 |
| Airdrie Utd | 30 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 37 | 29 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 19 | 28 | 39 |
| Brachin | 30 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 21 | 26 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 30 | 37 |
| Forfar | 30 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 30 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 23 | 34 | 33 |
| Albion R | 30 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 12 | 16 | 39 | 29 |
| Stirling A | 30 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 21 | 23 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 38 | 28 |

| Scottish Division Two | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|---|--|--|--------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Airdrie Utd..... | 2 | Arbroath..... | 0 | | | | | | |
| Lovering 73 | | | | | | | | | |
| McLaren 90 | | | | | | | | | |
| HT 0-0 | | | | | | | Att 689 | | |
| Brechin..... | 1 | East Fife..... | 3 | | | | | | |
| Moyes 16 | | | | | | Wallace 31, 59, 90 | | | |
| HT 1-1 | | | | | | | Att 525 | | |
| Greenock..... | 4 | Dumbarton..... | 1 | | | | | | |
| Mckenzie 19,81 | | | | | | | Dargo 33 | | |
| Coult 29 | | | | | | | | | |
| Mbu 38 | | | | | | | | | |
| HT 3-1 | | | | | | | Att 380 | | |
| Forfar..... | 4 | Stirling A..... | 3 | | | | | | |
| Fotheringham 12 | | | | | | | Kelbie 22 | | |
| Coyne 15 | | | | | | | Smith 63 | | |
| Templeman 23 | | | | | | | Ferry 89 | | |
| Byers 90 | | | | | | | | | |
| HT 3-1 | | | | | | | Att 462 | | |
| Stenhousemuir..... | 1 | Albion R..... | 2 | | | | | | |
| Rodgers 25 | | | | | | | Wendy 33 | | |
| HT 1-1 | | | | | | | McStay 50 | | |
| | | | | | | | Att 486 | | |

*Rangers deducted 10 points for going into administration

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Ayr Utd | 30 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 30 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 11 | 75 |
| Dundee | 30 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 30 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 11 | 75 |
| Falkirk | 30 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 4 | 30 | 10 | 54 |
| Motherwell | 31 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 54 |
| Dundee Utd | 31 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 30 | 26 | 46 |
| St Johnstn | 30 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 20 | 24 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 21 | 10 | 46 |
| Hearts | 31 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 16 | 42 |
| Kilmarnock | 31 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 23 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 21 | 37 |
| Aberdeen | 31 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 18 | 13 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 21 | 33 |
| St Mirren | 31 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 18 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 23 | 32 |
| Inverness CT30 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 29 | 31 | 23 |
| Hibernian | 31 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 31 | 23 |
| Dunfermline | 31 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 17 | 40 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 14 | 27 | 20 |

*Rangers deducted 10 points for going into administration

Gray panels indicate High-scoring games

Scottish Division Three

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alloa4 | Queens Park0 |
| Annan Athletic1 | Montrose2 |
| Clyde0 | Elgin2 |
| Peterhead1 | Berwick2 |
| Stranraer4 | E Stirling1 |

Blue Square Bet Premier

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alfreton Town2 | Cambridge1 |
| Barrow0 | Braintree Town4 |
| Ebbwfleet United1 | Kettering0 |
| Fleetwood Town2 | Mansfield0 |
| Hayes & Yeading0 | AFC Telford0 |
| Kidderminster3 | Darlington1 |
| Luton1 | Newport County0 |
| Stockport1 | Grimsby0 |
| Tamworth1 | Bath City0 |
| Wrexham1 | Gateshead1 |
| York1 | Forest Grn2 |
| | Southport2 |

| | HOME | | | | | | | AWAY | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|----|---|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt | | |
| Fleetwood T | 40 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 47 | 20 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 47 | 20 | 95 | | |
| Wrexham | 38 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 41 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 30 | 10 | 86 | | | |
| Mansfield | 40 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 45 | 24 | 8 | 4 | 28 | 22 | 71 | | | |
| Southport | 39 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 31 | 32 | 12 | 2 | 31 | 26 | 69 | | | |
| Luton | 38 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 39 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 27 | 67 | | | |
| York | 37 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 41 | 22 | 7 | 8 | 20 | 18 | 64 | | | |
| Kidderminster | 40 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 35 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 34 | 28 | | | |
| Gateshead | 39 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 33 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 28 | 29 | | | |
| Grimsby | 39 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 48 | 25 | 7 | 5 | 25 | 29 | 63 | | | |
| Forest Grn | 38 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 29 | 14 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 27 | 16 | | | |
| Cambridge | 38 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 26 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 20 | 22 | | | |
| Braineley T | 40 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 35 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 34 | 28 | | | |
| Karrow | 40 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 22 | 45 | 55 | | | |
| Ebbw Vale | 38 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 27 | 31 | 5 | 7 | 31 | 35 | 45 | | | |
| Tamworth | 39 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 25 | 24 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 33 | | | |
| Alfreton Town | 39 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 37 | 45 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 18 | 35 | | | |
| Stockport | 40 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 28 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 42 | | | |
| Doncaster | 39 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 28 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 42 | | | |
| Lincoln City | 38 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 23 | 22 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 17 | 38 | | | |
| Newport City | 37 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 20 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 27 | 36 | | | |
| Hayes & Y | 39 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 23 | 34 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 44 | | | |
| Darlington | 38 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 20 | 39 | | | |
| Kettering | 40 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 40 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 42 | | | |
| Bath City | 39 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 40 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 44 | | | |
| Walsley | 38 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 40 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 44 | | | |

* Kettering deducted 10 points for breaching league rules